



# Beresan District Odessa Newsletter

A publication for those who have a genealogical interest in the  
Beresan District of Odessa, South Russia.

Volume 6 Issue 2

October 2001

## Beresan District Villages (Those in bold are first villages.)

Alexanderfeld, Alexandrovka,  
Annenthal, Annovka, Antonowka,  
Bagdanovka, Bendeerhof, Biswanje,  
Christina, Christofovka, Domanevka,  
Dvorjanka, Eigengut, Felsenburg,  
Friedrichstal, Gaaregai, Gotta,  
Gradenfeld, Grise, **Guldendorf**,  
Halbstadt, Heck, Hoffnungstal,  
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  
Lustdorf, Neu Munchen, Neu  
Rohrbach, Neu Speyer, Neu Worms,  
Neusatz, Novo-Amerika,  
Novonikolajevka, Olgino, Otschakov,  
Petrowka, Pokrovskaja, **Rastadt**,  
**Rohrbach**, Rosenthal, Savidovka,  
Schlosser, Schmatz, Schonfeld,  
Sebastiansfeld, Selinger, Skarupka,  
Sjepucha, **Speir/Speyer**, Stadnaja-  
Bulka, Steinberg, Steingut, Stuttgart,  
**Sulz**, Swenigorodka, Vossessensk,  
**Waterloo**, Weidenberg,  
Wilhelmthal, Wolksov, **Worms**,  
Wowtsche.

(This list is not 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.

Thanks.

## 2001 GRHS Convention Personal Experience

*By David Kilwien*

My grandmother, Josephine Ruff Kilwien, is the 15th of 17 children raised by Gabriel and Rosalia Kuntz Ruff. Gabriel was born in Karlsruhe, while Rosa was born in Katharinental.

The world of genealogy started for me in the winter of 1997. I was at my grandmother's for thanksgiving and asked a few questions about her father, Gabriel Ruff. She went into another room and returned with a notebook and some photos; a family history she had put together about 15 years earlier.

Instantly, I became interested in the history of Germans from Russia and connected with cousins on the Internet. Eventually, I became a member of the GRHS.

After attending the 2000 convention in Bismarck, I returned to grandma's house with a report. She was so interested she asked me to take her to Pierre, South Dakota so that she could attend the 2001 convention. I said "great!, I'll buy the tickets," she said "no airplanes." You see grandma is 89 and as any good German Russian woman would be, she is set in her ways.

The weekend before the convention, I met up with my grandmother and my Aunt Barbara in Portland, Oregon to begin our trip. Our first stop was Spokane, Washington where a pre-convention get-together was held at the home of cousin Valerie Ingram. Val always finds other German Russians in the area for us to meet with while attending her barbeque. This barbeque has come to be an annual event.

The next day we ventured to Billings, Montana where my grandmother lived for about 25 years. The area is full of cousins, nieces, and nephews. We stayed three nights and visited with many family members that grandma had not seen in 25 years.

We ventured up the valley of the Clark Fork of the Yellowstone River to Silesia,

*(Continued on page 11)*

### Newsletter Line-up

Lead Editor            Gayla Gray / G09  
 Assistant Editor:    Merv Rennich / R060  
 Assistant Editor    Carol McCormack / M150  
 Assistant Editor    Roland Wagner / W011  
 Assistant Editor    Dale Lee Wahl / W078  
 Subscriptions        Arletta Baskins / B115

**Archives:**

Maps                    Jeff Hatzenbeller

**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
Stuttgart	Ruth Iseminger
Speier	Albert Berger
Speier	Valerie Ingram / I009
Sulz	Albert Berger
Sulz	Valerie Ingram / I009
Waterloo	Betty Rennich / R103
Waterloo	Lucy Simpson / S046
Weidenberg	
Worms	Arletta Baskins / B115
Worms	
Worms	Nancy Schroeder
Worms	Ed Schulz / S043
Worms	Lucy Simpson / S046
Worms	Dale Lee Wahl / W078

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

**Mark Your Calendar**

**32nd Annual GRHS Convention**  
 August 8-11, 2002  
 Radisson Inn.  
 Bismarck, North Dakota

## Waterloo Blacksmith's Handwork Presented to the GRHS

*By Merv Rennich*



*Rachel Schmidt, Ted Becker and Merv Rennich.*

A gate from a cemetery fence handcrafted by former Waterloo Blacksmith, Karl Rennich, was recently presented to the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS). On April 19, 2001, Karl's grandson, Merv Rennich, presented the gate to Rachel Schmidt, Executive Director, and Ted Becker, Building Chairman. The gate has been put on permanent display at the entrance to the GRHS's new headquarters building in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The gate was made from flat and half round iron stock using a forge and anvil. The scroll work is in a heart shape (see center of gate). The hinges, pins, and latch were also hand made along with the perfectly shaped cross at the top and the spear point under it.

Karl Rennich was born February 2, 1876 in Waterloo, Beresan District to Anton Rennich and Luise Boerkirchert. He served several tours in the Czar's army and fought in a number of battles in Eastern Asia during the Japanese Russian War.

In 1909, he left his blacksmith work in Waterloo and immigrated to the United States with his wife, Christina Engel, and their children, Carl Jr., Amelia, and Emanuel. They came through Canada and in December arrived

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Lichtenfeld Birth Records 1868

*Note: This information was compiled by Dale Wahl and coworkers July 27, 1995 from the St. Petersburg Lutheran Evangelical archives published by the LDS.*

Name	Date of Birth	Parents	Film/It	Page	Reg	Remarks
Barth, Friedrica (T)	29 Dec 1868	Heinrich/Elisabetha Eberhard	1884092/1	540	29	From Odessa
Barth, Heinrich (T)	29 Dec 1868	Heinrich/Elisabetha Everhard	1884092/1	540	28	From Odessa
Bippus, Jacob	15 Mar 1868	Mathias/Catharine Ackermann	1884092/1	538	12	From Guldendorf
Fischer, Elisabethe	17 Feb 1868	Andreas/Elisabetha Abel	1884092/1	538	6	From Neuburg
Fischer, Philipp	10 Feb 1868	Mathaus/Christine ?	1884092/1	537	3	From Guldendorf
Grenz, Christina	13 Feb 1868	Georg Adam/Christine Abel	1884092/1	538	7	From Guldendorf
Grenz, Friedrich (T)	22 Jan 1868	Michael/Catharine Runner	1884092/1	538	5	From Guldendorf
Grenz, Johann (T)	22 Jan 1868	Michael/Catharine Runner	1884092/1	538	4	From Guldendorf
Guhr?, Katharina	31 Dec 1868	Jacob/Margaretha Griess	1884110/3	556	5	From Johannesthal
Hornbacher, Johann Adam	1 Mar 1868	Andreas/Catharine ?	1884092/1	538	9	From Guldendorf
Hornbacher, Philipp	3 Aug 1868	Philipp/Katharine Brenneisen	1884092/1	539	16	From Guldendorf
Jenner, Christina	10 Jan 1828	Carl/Justine K?	1884092/1	539	14	From Wurtemberg
Keck?, Johannes	20 Aug 1868	Philipp/Christiane Wolfer	1884092/1	539	21	From Guldendorf
Kock?, Caroline	21 Jul 1868	Friedrich/Caroline Schmidt	1884092/1	539	15	From Guldendorf
Link, Gottlieb	9 Oct 1868	Johann/Caroline Maunsch	1884092/1	540	26	From Wurtemberg
Mauch, Regine	17 Feb 1868	Peter/Catharine Riger	1884092/1	538	8	From Worms
Moos, Friedrich	19 Oct 1868	Jakob/Margareth Renner?	1884092/1	540	25	From Rohrbach
Munsch, Peter	4 Aug 1868	Jakob/Magdaline Schmidt	1884092/1	539	17	From Worms
Reichart, Catharina	15 Apr 1868	Sebastian/Christine Schaeser	1884092/1	538	11	From Guldendorf
Rothmann, Barbara	15 Oct 1868	Mathias/Catharina Fischer	1884092/1	540	24	From Guldendorf
Schlichenmaier, Pauline D	23 May 1868	David/Paulius	1884092/1	538	13	From Hoffnungsthal
Schmied, Friedrich	5 Feb 1868	Jakob/Caroline Enzi	1884092/1	537	2	From Guldendorf
Schmierer, Caroline (T)	16 Aug 1868	Christian/Caroline Link	1884092/1	539	20	From Worms
Schmierer, Conrad (T)	16 Aug 1868	Christian/Caroline Link	1884092/1	539	19	From Worms
Stahllegger, Johann	10 Oct 1868	Georg/Caroline Grenz	1884092/1	539	23	From Guldendorf
Weng, Christine	15 Aug 1868	Peter/Christine Dagele	1884092/1	539	18	From Worms
Weng, Peter	4 Nov 1868	Peter/Christine Ebert	1884092/1	540	27	From Worms
Wiest, Caroline Christine	21 Sep 1868	Wilhelm/Agnes Maria Schneider	1884092/1	539	22	From Rohrbach

## Historical Sketch of St. Peters Parish and the Founding of the Colonies of Rastadt, Katharinental and Speyer - The Years 1891 & 1892

*By Reverend Father H. Metzger*

*Translated by A. Becker and Sister Bernadine Kletzel*

*Note: Words in parenthesis are the Translator's addition for clarity. This is a continuation from the June 2001 newsletter article.*

In the spring of 1891, there were some additional new arrivals:

1. Johannes Eberle (presumably from Rastadt) and his family, all single, namely, Franz, Joseph, Thomas, Michael, Nikodemus, Jakob, and Katharina.

On the 28th of May 1891, five families came from München:

1. Heinrich Bengert and his wife, Mari-Eva Dietz and 2 children, Katharina 3 and Anna 1½ years old.
2. Franz Dietz and his wife, Josepha Reichert.
3. Franz Bast and his wife Barbara Dreher and five children, Johannes 16, Max 12, Julia 8, Marianna 13 and Elizabeth 18.
4. Wilhelm Thomas and his wife Magdalena Wirtmüller and 4 children, Franz, Max, Philipp, and Marianna.
5. Joseph Schropp and his wife Katharina Wagner and 2 children, Margareta 6 and Sebastian 4 years old.

In the fall of the same year, these families came from Klosterdorf:

1. Wilhelm Ehmann and his wife Katharina Mayer and 5 children, Daniel and his wife Adriana Teier, Peter 19, Rudolph 14, Johann 10, and

Maria 8 years old.

2. Andreas Ehmann and his wife, Katharina Fahlmann.
3. Andreas Ehmann Jr. and his wife, Paulina Eiswirt and children, Adolph 17, Robert 10, Wilhelm 6, and Paul 4 years old.
4. Michael Mayer and his wife, Margareta Reiberger and 3 children, Jakob 16, Maria 8, and Samuel 6 years old.
5. Daniel Mayer and his wife, Katharina Gottselig and one child, Daniel age 2.

On the 6th of November 1891, a second group from Rastadt arrived in Balgonie. They were:

1. Johann Obrigevitch and his wife, Elisabeth Reinhard and 7 children, Anna Maria 18, Joseph 16, Jakob 11, Salomea 9, Christina 7, Gregor 5, and Franz 3.
2. Jakob Reinhard and his wife, Margareta Selinger and 4 children, Natalia 9, Johannes 7, Joseph 4, and Flor 1.
3. Gustav Koch and his wife, Margareta Wollbaum and 1 child, Mari-Anna.
4. Hyeronimus Ebeal, single.
5. Martin Frey, single.

In December 1891 came:

1. Andreas Wollbaum and his wife, Anna Heker and 8 children, Johannes, Thomas, Leonhard, Jakob, Georg, Angelina, Katharina, and Rosa.

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Evangelical Parish Pastors

This data was taken from: Die Kirchen und das Religiöse Leben der Russlanddeutschen—Evangelischer Teil

Bearbeitung: Joseph Schnurr

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### Kirchspiel Rohrbach-Worms (from 1809—1933)

Number	Last	First	Born	Where	Served	Remarks
1130	Hübner	Elias			1815—1824	
1131	Bonekemper	Johannes	06 Jul 1796	Niederbreunfeld Numbrecht	1824—1848	Served in Admagea Do- brudscha from 1849— 1853
1132	Prüss	Ernest Theodor			1852—1856	Ordained 29 Mar 1852
1133	Uehlinger	Philipp Jakob	17 Dec 1834	Neunkirch Kt. Schaffhausen	1861—1865	Reformed Pastor
1135	Bonekemper	Karl	27 Apr 1827	Odessa	1865—1876	3 years Pediger in Phili- delphia USA and 8 years in the ev. School in Chischona by Basel
1136	Alber	Johannes	20 Oct 1845	Nikolajew	1871—1876	
1136a	Glinz	Johann			1877—1882	
1137	Schlarb	Friedrich	25 Jul 1838	Kusel Pfalz	1880—1883	Ordained 10 Nov 1861, reformed in Neudorf and Rohrbach
1138	Barnehl	Friedr. Carl			1899—1903	Reformed Pastor
1139	Hösli	Kasper			1903—1910	Ordained 30 Mar 1890
1140	von Schalinsky	Max Karl	08 Jun 1882		1911—1919	Ordained 21 Jun 1908

### Kirchspiel Worms-Johannestal (from 1861—1885)

Number	Last	First	Born	Where	Served	Remarks
1141	Görtz	Johann Friedr.	13 Dec 1822	Kurland	1861—1863	
1141a	Zeller	Ludwig	31 Dec 1820		1864—1869	
1142	Schomburg	Gustav	03 Aug 1835		1863—1867	
1143	Birnbach	Adalbert	24 Nov 1831		1869—1874	Ordained 5 Feb 1865 Strassberg near Berlin
1144	Steinwand	Daniel	02 Mar 1857	Klöstitz Bess	1886—1908	
1145	Adt	Rudolf	15 Mar 1880	Petersburg	1909—1920	Ordained 19 Apr 1909
1146	Steinwand	Friedr. Herm. Daniel	26 Apr 1888	Worms Od	1920—1923	
1147	Seib	Waldemar	02 Mar 1889	Nikolajew	1923—1928	

## BERESAN District Supplement Report

October 1811

*(following is taken from file 6-1-593 by Dale Wahl)*

No. 472

Landau - 31 October 1811

### I. ROHRBACH

Born none

Died none

Move under No. 61 in the family of the Kolonist Nicolaus **BRAUN**, widower, 32 years old, went to Worms.  
1 male, 1 total

### II. SPEIER

Born under No. 102 in the family of Peter Phil **SCHAAF** - born son Georg  
1 male

Died under No. 7 in the family of **JACOBY**, father Joh. died  
1 male

Move To No. 41 - the widow Eva **MOCK** 32 years old, and son Philipp 7 years old, from No. 31, in marriage to the  
Kolonist Adam **BÜHLMANN**  
1 male, 1 female

under No. \_\_ *(this is at top of next page which is damaged and some of it is missing. It appears to point to a Jo-  
hann Frantz Renner from Speier house 103, -- see next entry.)*

under No. 92 the family Jacobina **HUTHMACHER** to number 103 with following members;  
*[in marriage to Renner?]*

Wendel <b>WEBER</b> 's widow Nasineus Maria	20 years old
with her daughter Barbara	1 year old
mother Jacobina <b>HUTHMACHER</b>	56 years old
and her son Anton	16 years old
1 male, 3 females, 4 total	

### III. LANDAU

Born under No. 72 in the family of Joseph **FICHTER** - born son Adam  
under No. 73 in the family of Anton **MORITZ**, or **MORSCHHÄUSER** - born son Johann  
under No. 50 in the family of George **STOLZ** - born son Frantz  
under No. 84 in the family of Daniel **DÖRR** - born son Vallentin  
4 males

Died none

Move *(top of next page destroyed)*

### IV. WORMS

Born under No. 43 in the family of Joh. **SIMON?** *(name is in damaged area and cannot be read clearly)* - born son  
Anton

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

under No. 74 in the family of George **SCHERRER** - born daughter Catharina  
1 male, 1 female

Died none

Move from Rohrbach, under No. 98 the Kolonist Nicolaus **BRAUN**, widower to Worms No. 78

from No. 26 - deceased Kolonist Nicol **KÜSTNER**'s widow Rosina 21 years old, in marriage to No. 78.  
[Nicolaus and Rosina married - No. 78?]

#### V. SULTZ

Born none

Died under No. 29 in the family of Johann **MICHAEL**'s wife Catharina died  
1 female

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years old and single, from Liebental Kolonies to Sultz No. 6)

#### VI. KARLSRUHE

Born under No. 9 the family of Joh. **FOERDERER**, born a son Johann  
under No. 31 the family of Martin **HATZENBÜHLER**, born a son Georg  
2 male

Died under No. 36 the family of Math. **HILL**, died son Frantz  
under No. 45 the family of Joh. **BRÄUER**, died son Frantz  
under No. 11 the family of Vall. **KLEIN**, died son George  
under No. 7 the family of Nicolaus **SCHUELER**, died daughter Maria  
3 males, 1 female

Move (at top of next page which is damaged and some of it is missing, "... son Franz ... to No. 103")

#### VII. MÜNCHEN

Born under No. 42 the family of George **BENGERT**, born son Franciscus  
1 male

Died under No. 38 the family of Jacob **SCHAEFER**, died son Peter  
1 male

Move none

#### VIII. RASTADT

Born (at top of next page which is damaged and some of it is missing, but it appears as follows)

under No. 40 the family of Gottlieb **TROST**?, born a daughter Elisabeth  
1 female

Died under No. 21 the family of **DAUM**, the father Adam died  
1 male

under No. 74 the family of Joseph **OBERLE**, the wife's father Michael **METZ** died  
1 male

under No. 80 the family of **SCHNEIDER**, the father Nicol  
1 male

Move from No. 76 to No. 30, in marriage to Kolonist Jacob **SUTTER**

Mich. <b>KROLLS</b>	widow Agnes	age 31 years
" "	sons Wilhelm	age 17 years

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

" " Heinrich age 13 years  
 " " daughter Sophia age 10 years  
 " " son August age 9 years  
 1 family, 3 male, 2 female, 5 total

(at top of next page which is damaged and some of it is missing, but we can see **MAYER**, and No. 101. Not enough information to say if it ties to the next entry or not.)  
 from No. 48 in marriage, to No. 101,

Angelica **JOST** age 27 years  
 daughters Susanna age 18 years  
 Catharina age 17 years  
 Elisabeth age 5 years  
 [daughters is questionable - age]  
 4 females, 4 total

[signed] Inspector Strohmeyer, Landau on 31 October 1811

### Arrival - Gains for Month of October 1811

Name of Colony	1 Oct 1811				Taking Over Farm				By Marriage				Births			Sums
	Fam	M	F	Total	Fam	M	F	Total	Fam	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
<b>I. Tiraspol Kreis</b>																
Rohrbach	99	244	223	<b>467</b>												<b>467</b>
Speier	102	208	239	<b>447</b>		1		1					1	1	1	<b>449</b>
Landau	106	234	238	<b>472</b>									4		4	<b>476</b>
Worms	77	182	182	<b>364</b>					1	1		1	1	1	2	<b>367</b>
Sultz	64	118	106	<b>224</b>							1	1				<b>225</b>
Karlsruhe	71	151	159	<b>310</b>									2		2	<b>312</b>
<b>II. Olwiopol Kreis</b>																
München	51	103	105	<b>208</b>									2		2	<b>210</b>
Rastadt	100	237	214	<b>451</b>										1	1	<b>452</b>
<b>SUMS</b>	670	1477	1466	<b>2943</b>		1		1	1	1	1	2	10	2	12	<b>2958</b>

(Continued from page 4)

2. Johannes Reinbold and his wife, Katharina Ihly and 2 children, Katharina 9 and Magdalena 5.
3. Peter Reiberger and his wife, Christina Thauberger and 3 children, Katharina 11, Mathilda 8, and Johann 6.
4. Wilhelm Reinländer and his wife, Maria Babel and 3 children, Bertha 8, Valentin 6, and Leo 4.
5. Jakob Ehmann, single.

### The Year 1892

In the spring of 1892, a further group arrived from the Rastadt colony. They left their homes on the 12th of April 1892 and came via Odessa, Bremen, and New York directly to Regina where they arrived on the 23rd of May.

They were:

1. Peter Herauf and his wife, Katharina Stika and 2 children, Joseph and Michael.
2. Simon Schmidt and his wife, Anastasia Stika and 3 children, Margareta, Paul, and Ottilia.
3. Georg Michael Koch and his wife, Katharina Dielschneider and 2 children, Leocadia 2½, and Rosa 8 months old.
4. Christian Dielschneider and his wife, Marianna Andreas and their daughter Barbara. (Chrispoph Fahlmann married Barbara Dielschneider at a later date).
5. Andreas Koch, single.

When they landed in Regina on the 23rd of May, 1892, they were met by Anton Schmidt, a brother of Simon Schmidt. The former had been living in Regina for one year, where he had built himself a small house.

On the same evening, Johann Obrigevitch came to Regina to obtain some lumber, doors and windows for his new house. The following day, the newcomers drove

out with him to look for land. They returned to Regina during the same week in order to take up homesteads.

At the insistence of his brother Simon, Anton Schmidt decided to return to his land. His house in Regina was to be moved to the new settlement. This was the first "moverei" (transport business). The house was placed on 2 wagons, 2 teams of oxen were hitched on one wagon and a team of horses on the other, and "hurrah" they drove out of the village, but unfortunately not very far. As is well known, oxen and horses do not walk at the same speed. Consequently, the house would slide first to one side and then to the other; straightening it was a never ending job. At a point 6 miles from Regina, it was necessary to cross the Wascana Creek. The ground was still slippery and there were bog holes on the road. As one would expect, they got so far but could go no further. Before long, both wagons sank to the axles in a bog hole and no amount of pushing or yelling could budge them. The horses were stamping angrily in the marsh, and the good natured oxen simply hung their heads with a sideward glance, as if to say, "it just won't go any further." They unhitched and left the house and the wagons mired in the marsh.

They returned the following day, but this time with the hammer and saw. The house was dismantled and loaded on the wagons. On the same evening they reached Colony 14. The house was rebuilt on Peter Herauf's homestead, and three families lived under its roof.

Fortunately, the weather was still mild enough so that one could spend most of the time in the open. They immediately began to build. By the time fall came, Peter Herauf and Simon Schmidt had completed their homes. Anton Schmidt spent the winter in his board house, but in the

(Continued on page 11)

## GROW—New GRHS Chapter

*By Gayla Gray*

A new GRHS chapter, GROW, has been formed to support Germans from Russia living in Oregon and South West Washington. GROW is the first GRHS chapter for Oregon, and the 3rd chapter being supported on the west coast, along with the Puget Sound, Washington chapter and the chapter at Sacramento, California. If you live in Oregon or SW Washington, get involved and join this new chapter.

The following nine Directors were elected: Oscar Geiszler—President, Leonard Kopp—Vice President, Gayla Gray—Secretary, Margaret Rehwalt—Treasurer, Roger Haas—National Board Liason, Douglas Henne, Walter Aman, Dr. Cecil Reinke, and Clifford Haberman

GROW chapter meetings are open to all GRHS members and their guests. Meetings are held at the Solid Rock Baptist Church located at 8510 SE Battin Road in Portland, Oregon. Meetings will commence at 2:00 p.m. on the following dates:

**October 28, 2001**—Demonstrations, maybe even sampling, of German Russian ethnic foods. Plan to bring finger foods and your own table service. Juice and drink will be provided.

**December 9, 2001**—Dr. Tim Janzen will present a presentation on Mennonite History and Research.

For more information on this new chapter or to join, please call:

- Clifford Haberman at 503-252-5480 or
- Margaret Rehwalt at 503-625-7055, or e-mail Margaret at mjrehwalt@aol.com

Additional information on the new GROW chapter can be found on the GRHS website: <http://www.grhs.com>

## Obituaries

*Reported by Rich Aspenleiter*

*Taken from the Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Saturday, September 15, 2001:*

Graveside service for **Mardella T. (Hoffmann) Stuhlmiller**, 71, will be at 11 a.m. today at Spokane Memorial Gardens. Mrs. Stuhlmiller, who was born in Zap, N.D., died Tuesday. She was a longtime resident of Spokane and moved to Richland in 1989. In 1946, she married Edwin Stuhlmiller. They made Spokane their home.

*Taken from the Spokesman-Review, Friday, August 17, 2001:*

Funeral for Norman **Donald Hoepfer**, 69, will be at 10 a.m. today at Sherman-Knapp Funeral Home in Priest River. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Priest River. Born in Martin, N.D., Mr. Hoepfer died Saturday, in Priest Lake, Idaho.

*Taken from the Spokesman-Review Saturday, July 28, 2001:*

Service for **Florence Landsiedel**, 73, will be at 1 p.m. today at Ball and Dodd Funeral Home-North. Burial will be at Fairmont Memorial Park. Ms. Landsiedel, who was born in Hebron, N.D., died Tuesday. She was a 42-year Spokane resident. Ms. Landsiedel had lived in Missoula before moving to Spokane in 1959.

*Taken from the Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Tuesday July 24, 2001:*

Funeral Mass for **Joseph Eugene Wolf**, 76, was held Sunday at St. Pascal's Catholic Church in the Spokane Valley. Mr. Wolf, a 34-year resident of the Valley, died Thursday. He was born in Bismarck, N.D.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Rockvale, Fromberg, Edgar, and Bridger. From 1925-1950 this area was populated mostly by German Russian farmers who had left the Dakotas. My research shows many were Beresan families. It was here my grandmother met and married my grandfather Clemens Kilwien, son of Peter and Margaret Wilhelm Kilwien. Peter was born in Rastadt, while Margaret was born in Landau. We spent the day driving around local cemeteries and looking at all the old places where my grandparents had lived.

In Laurel, Montana, another stop, we visited with my grandfather's first cousin, Ralph Kilwien. As young adults Ralph and my grandparents spent a great deal of time together. Grandmother, having not seen Ralph since 1948, was excited. Ralph, a 94 year old fellow with eyes as big as silver dollars, had his arms open wide and was so excited to see my grandmother. I was amazed they still recognized each other. We were there for over two hours as they reminisced about the old days.

On the eve of the convention, we stopped at Mt. Rushmore. I think grandma enjoyed the ice cream more than the mountain. After all, to a farmer Mt. Rushmore is just a rock.

We were "early birds" to the convention, so spent most of the first day viewing the library and meeting other German conventioners. Grandma found many folks she knew while looking through stacks of family history and town books. As she went from book to book, I noticed her chatting with other folks and sharing memories of the families they both knew. It was here she met Mel Beckler, who turned out to be a cousin. At the convention she attended the workshops she had chosen and kept very busy.

One evening during the convention, we were seated for dinner next to Ralph Ruff. Although he and my grandmother shared the same name, they were certain they were

not related.

At the Friday luncheon, Elvera Reuer gave a special presentation about her life experience fleeing Russia during WW II. This special presentation reached the tear ducts of many in attendance. My grandmother and aunt enjoyed visiting with Elvera after her presentation. After returning from the convention, my grandmother received a handmade "set up" bunny doll from Elvera.

My grandmother did learn more about her heritage while at the convention. During the drive home, we shared our convention experiences and grandma told us family stories. Her memory is just amazing. I will always remember this trip with my grandmother. As researchers, we should all take advantage of the information we learn from our elders about our ancestors.

*(Continued from page 2)*

in Turtle Lake, North Dakota. After a year blacksmithing in Turtle Lake, Karl moved his family to Mercer, North Dakota where he was the village blacksmith until his death on October 2, 1933.

A number of cemeteries around Mercer still contain his handiwork of wrought iron crosses and cemetery plot fences.

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spring the others helped him to build another house. In the meantime, the land had been prepared for seeding. A garden was prepared for vegetables and potatoes, and considerable hay was gathered. So, even if they did not have very much money, they were indeed rich in hope.

***Note: This story will be continued in the February 2002 issues of the BDO newsletter.***

## Beresan District Odessa Newsletter

This is the 2nd issue for the sixth year of publication. The next issue is scheduled for February 2002.

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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 Gayla Gray; Assistant Editors Merv Rennich, Carol McCormack, Roland Wagner, and Dale Lee Wahl; with subscriptions handled by Arletta Baskins.

All submitted material should include a statement that gives permission for use in the newsletter. Pictures are welcome.

### **Beresan District Odessa Newsletter**

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

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