

Pre-Convention Tour and Presentation Schedule for 2023 GRHS International Convention

- ❖ -The Bullet symbol designates which presentations are presented via zoom (See Virtual Presentations and Schedule file for information on the virtual presentations)

Wednesday – July 19, 2023 - Pre-Convention Bus Tour

Step back in time in an air-conditioned coach with tour guide Paulette Bullinger, to when the Germans from Russia migrated to the United States in their search for freedom and land. A large group of Germans from Russia originally from the Kuchurgan settled on the Sioux Indian Reservation when the government opened it up for homesteading. The tour takes you down Scenic Highway 1806 to the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, where you will be able to tour the reconstructed house of George and Libbie Custer. Continue south towards Fort Yates, enjoy the beautiful scenery along the way and hear about the history of the small towns and other historic sites until we reach Fort Yates for a on-bus city tour and visit St. Peter Catholic Church and Cemetery.

Thursday-July 20, 2023:

10:05 am-11:10 am

Beresan Regional Interest Group - Valerie Ingram Stewart

Kherson/Ekaterinoslaw/Taurien (KET) Regional Interest Group - Matt Klee

Talking Trail and Epitaph Innovations. Shawn Brannon will share how Epitaph Innovations connects our rich German-Russian history, heritage, culture and stories using *Talking Trails* with text, audio recordings about our ancestors.

Growing Up In the Shadow of Winchester Butte. Pete Silbernagel gives a first-hand account of farm and town life in Emmons County, North Dakota is a mosaic of reflections and memories from his early life. He offers the reader a compelling perspective on what it was like to grow up in a fifteen child, German Russian family in mid-century rural America.

12:50 pm – 1:40 pm

Grossliebental Regional Interest Group - Valerie Stewart

Crimea Regional Interest Group - Matt Klee

Growing Up in a German Russian Family – Lynn Brackel & Marie Snavley

How to Get the Most Out of Online Resources: Genealogy Research at the North Dakota State Archives and Beyond - Ashley Thronson show how to explore several web resources from the North Dakota State Archives that would be beneficial in doing Germans from Russia genealogy research and will discuss some basic search strategies for websites, as well as tips and tricks to navigating the sites to get the best search results.

2:00 pm-2:50 pm

Kutschurgan Regional Interest Group - Dennis Roth

Bessarabia Regional Interest Group - Evan Laib

Hoffnungstal Regional Interest Group - Harry Harsch

Vossler's Believe It or Not: Mysteries, Strange Letters and Odd Humor of Dakota Germans. Ron Vossler tells incidents and stories from the bizarre to the humorous, and at times both. This material derives from many sources, including odd stories from the oral traditions of Wishek, North Dakota.

4:05 pm – 4:55 pm

My German from Russia Ancestry Discovered and Illuminated. Ken Messmer will share his journey of discovering his families ancestral history and has traveled twice to family homelands in Crimea, Germany and Switzerland.

German-Russian Migration in the United States & Canada – Trains to the Plains. Randy Entzminger will present the challenges faced by Germans from Russia in their travels from Russia, and the expansion of the railroads across two countries which aided in their migration to their homestead.

Beginning Genealogy. Yvonne Haefner will walk you through organizing and starting your family tree including citing the sources you use to get there. Yvonne has been doing research for herself and others for 38 years.

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Friday-July 21, 2023:

10:05 am – 11:10 am

A Guide to Genealogical Research at the North Dakota State Archives. Daniel Sauerwein will cover the types of material available, including sources that relate to the German from Russia community, and electronic access that is available to help you discover your family's history.

Intersecting Lives and Fates of Bishop Anton Zerr of the Tiraspol Diocese and the Schmalz Family of the Village of Kandel in Soviet Ukraine. Eric Schmalz tells of the hardship and perseverance of the Schmalzes during a period of intensifying Soviet Communist oppression and terror and the flight of the Bishop of Tiraspol in South Russia.

Family Tree Maker. Yvonne Haefner presents the differences between the software that is available and what you can use to build your family tree. She will demonstrate how Family Tree Maker works, inputting data, shortcuts, and getting reports out.

❖ ***My Grandfather's Darkest Days: Anti-German Hysteria in South Dakota in World War I***
- Allyn Brosz

12:50 pm – 1:40 pm

Russo-Japanese War: The German-Russian Experience, Part II. Steve Eberle will present his research on the Russo-Japanese and will present information on 7 more letters from soldiers. There are several books, eBooks, that help to identify the units the soldiers were in. This is a continuation from 2022.

Tracing the Migration of German Colonists to South Russia in 1809. - Matt Klee presents the fonds acquired that explains the travel of over 1000 families from Baden, Alsace, Pfalz and Hesse on their overland journey and settled in the Black Sea areas of Glückstal, Kutschurgan, Beresan, Liebental, Molotschna, Crimea, etc. He will discuss how the documents were obtained, the additional scope of the files, and the efforts to make their contents available to the GRHS members.

"Touring" Five Eastern European Countries 1944-1945, Revisiting in 2010. Alex Herzog will describe his family's "tour" of five countries from March 1944 to February 1945, starting with "repatriation" from Ukraine to Poland via Romania and Hungary to a harrowing winter escape from Poland, to arrival in Berlin just two months before Russia conquered the German capital. In the second part, we'll provide a "travelogue" of a pleasant revisit of the area, travelling mostly by air.

❖ ***A Beginner's Guide to Identifying Old Photos*** - Virginia Hanson

2:00 pm-2:50 pm

Story of the Holodomor in Ukraine 1932-1933: A Germans from Russia Perspective.

Wayne Garman tells the story of the Holodomor during the years 1932 to 1933 in Ukraine and other parts of the USSR. The Germans who remained in the Soviet Union by the early 1930s, the imposition of collective farms forced them to give up their farms to the state. This became yet another horror of communist rule. Unfortunately, more misery was to come, as the manmade crop failure and resulting famine killed millions of people, including many Germans.

Growing Up in a German Russian Family – Lynn Brackel & Marie Snavley

Strudla & Kraut Demonstration. Luella Gomke will demonstrate how to make Strudla and Kraut. With taste testing after.

❖ ***1803 - 1809: From Alsace, Baden, Moselle & Pfalz to the Odessa District*** - Tim Grad

4:05 pm – 4:55 pm

Grandma's Aprons "Schürzen." Verlena Mehlhaff demonstrates the style of aprons that were worn from the 1930-1960 just like the aprons that her grandmother and mother wore.

Lost in Russia Update; Surviving Putin's Two Wars. Valerie Ingram Stewart tells of her search for two half-siblings began in 1990 after the death of Valerie's father, Michael Renner. And now after Russia's attack on Ukraine on February 24, 2022, how her family fled from their homes in Kramatorsk amid the invasion, and this is their story as of now.

How to Make Hochzeit Schnapps "Red Eye." Ternes Margaret Ternes will demonstrate the art of making "Hochzeit Schnapps" aka "Wedding Schnapps" also known as "Red Eye."

❖ ***Differences between Special Settlers, Prisoners, and Labor Army Conscripts in the USSR Pertaining to its Ethnic German Citizens*** - Otto Pohl

Saturday-July 22, 2023:

8:55 am - 9:45 am

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❖ ***Preserving Documents & Photographs*** - Matthew Reitzel

10:05 am – 11:10 am

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German capital. In the second part, we'll provide a "travelogue" of a pleasant revisit of the area, travelling mostly by air.

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Family Tree Maker. Yvonne Haefner presents the differences between the software that is available and what you can use to build your family tree. She will demonstrate how Family Tree Maker works, inputting data, shortcuts, and getting reports out.

❖ ***Time Travel*** - Sandy Schilling Payne

12:50 pm – 1:40 pm

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Beginning Genealogy. Yvonne Haefner will walk you through organizing and starting your family tree including citing the sources you use to get there. Yvonne has been doing research for herself and others for 38 years.

Knoepfla Soup. Luella Gomke will demonstrate how Knoepfla Soup is made. Taste testing after.

❖ ***Can't find Great Grandpa? Unique sources at SD State Archives*** - Virginia Hanson

2:00 pm-2:50 pm

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❖ ***DNA and Genealogy: A Beginner's Guide*** -Margie Rosario