



Inland Northwest Chapter of GRHS  
P.O. Box 18182  
Spokane, WA 99218



Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2003

# Inland Northwest Chapter

## Newest GRHS Chapter Formed

Spread the word! The newest chapter of GRHS has been formed right here in the Inland Northwest.

In July of 2002, a small group of dedicated family historians and genealogists began planning for the new chapter's formation. The first meeting was held on February 22nd at Cunningham Studio in the Spokane valley. Over 40 enthusiastic people attended this meeting, including a reporter for the local newspaper, *The Spokesman Review*.

After the formation committee was introduced, the attendees each stood and introduced themselves, including a quick biography on their personal family history including information on where their families lived in Germany, Russia, and the US or Canada and their family surnames. Quite often people in the audience found that they either knew or were related to family members of other attendees, or that they knew people from the same villages in Russia or the US and Canada. It was found that many of the attendees had family that originally came from either North or South Dakota and echoes could be heard around the room of, "Talk to me later...I have family there too!"

Officers were elected at this first meeting (see page 2 for a listing of the new chapter officers).

The second meeting was also held on March 8 at Cunningham Studio in the Spokane valley. Al Berger, owner of Cunningham Studio, presented an overview of the pixel digital library which is maintained by a fellow German from Russia, Roger Ehrich. This online database contains over 300 megabytes (MB) of data pertaining to the Germans from Russia. Information located in this database includes indexes from Germany, Russia, US, and Canada and covers everything from indexes of extracted German church records from Russia to indexes of cemeteries located in the US. Although time was short, Al was able to give a very good overview of available records.

(Continued on page 2)



## Dale Wahl is Coming to Town!

Although Dale Wahl may not be the real Santa Claus, his arrival in Spokane is looked forward to by GR genealogists with as much anticipation as the real Santa.

Instead of visions of sugarplums dancing in the genealogist's head, the upcoming presentation by Dale Wahl brings visions of slides of Ukrainian villages from Dale's last visit to Russia,

times of never before seen research materials from his extensive personal library, and maps, maps, and more maps!

And that's only for starters. Dale has been active in German Russian research for many years and has amassed an incredible amount of knowledge on GR history,

(Continued on page 3)

### Inside this issue:

New Chapter (Cont.)	2
Dale Wahl (Cont.)	3
Chapter Officers	2
Upcoming Meeting	2
Meet The Editor	2

## About the Editor...

Greetings from the Editor!

My name is Debbie Beick and I was born in Minot, North Dakota. My parents were also born in North Dakota; my father in Zap, and my mother (nee Scheid) in Hazen. Both parents are children from German Russian families who had migrated to ND around 1900.

When I was a child, my mother's parents were still living in the sod house that my great-grandfather had built on his homesteaded land in 1903. My mother and all of her 7 brothers and sisters grew up in that sod house, and my sister, brother and I also called it "home."

By the time I was old enough to remember, my father's parents had moved to a small plot of land just outside of Zap city



limits. My grandfather had been injured in a mining accident years before and had stopped farming long before I was born. I have many fond memories of my grandmother's large garden, my grandfather's garage filled with old cars including my father's Model T pickup and his Model A car.

When I turned 12, my family moved to Spokane, Washington, although we went back home almost every year to visit our grandparents, aunts and uncles, and many other relatives

(Continued on page 3)

## Chapter Officers

Chapter officers were elected at the first meeting which was held on February 22nd at Cunningham Studio in the Spokane Valley.

Offices are held for varying periods of time. The President's term is 3 years, Vice-president, 2 years, Secretary, 1 year, Treasurer, 1 year, and

member at large, 1 year.

The officers are as follows:

**President -**

Val Ingram

**Vice President -**

Debbie Beick

**Secretary -**

Wanda Hopkins

**Treasurer-**

Rich Aspenleiter

**Member at Large-**

Al Berger

**Chapter Representative -**

Wanda Hopkins

## Upcoming Meetings

Mark your calendars. You don't want to miss a single meeting!

On **June 7th** at 1:00 p.m. at Shadle Public Library, Dale Wahl will be giving a presentation on the history of the German's from Russia. The presentation will include a slide show of his most recent visit to the German colonies in Russia and more information than you can imagine. Bring your notebooks, you will want to take

notes at this one!

**July 20th** is the meeting date for the summer picnic to be held in conjunction with the local AHSGR (American Historical Society of German's from Russia). The picnic will be at the Cascade Mobile Community Park Club House. We will begin eating at 2:00 p.m.

To get to the Club House, coming east or west on I-90, take exit 279 to Highway 195 (Collfax/Pullman exit), turn left

on 16th Avenue from 195, turn right at the first street which will take you to the clubhouse.

Please bring potluck dishes to share. Coffee, plates, cups, etc. will be furnished. Please also label your food containers with your name.

**No meeting** is scheduled for the month of **August**. Meetings will resume again on the second Saturday in September.

Watch the chapter website at <http://www.ieway.com/richa883/inc/index.html> for the announcement of the September meeting!

## Dale Wahl is coming...

genealogy research, records research, and records retrieval.

Dale is head of the Village Research Project, the GRHS Bessarabian records retrieval project, President and Chapter Representative of the GRHS Puget Sound Chapter, and is a prominent speaker at the yearly GRHS convention.

Dale is also the head of acquisitions for the pixel digital library as well as being the Village Coordinator for the villages of Hoffnungstal, Bessarabia, Karlstal, Odessa, Worms, Odessa, and the parish of Hoffnungstal, Odessa (which includes 26 villages and chutors).

He is also active in many other

committees and groups and will be a welcome visitor and speaker at our group. Make sure you don't miss his presentation on June 7th at 1:00 p.m. Spokane's Shadle Public Library located at 2111 W. Wellesley.

(Continued from page 1)

## About the editor...

who remained living in Mercer County.

I became interested in genealogy when my father had a sudden stroke and was unable to talk for a period of days after the stroke. My sister and I discussed the fact that we had never written down any of the stories he had told us about his family and where they came from.

During my father's recovery, my sister and I stayed with my father and finally began to ask questions and record answers. I was surprised to find out that my grandfather had actually been born in Russia, as well as his older brothers and sisters. I had always assumed they were born in the United States.

My father knew the names of

the villages in Russia that both his mother and father's families had migrated from. And on my mother's side, my grandmother had recorded the information on where both her mother and father's families had migrated from in Russia.

I had remembered as a small child my Grandfather Beick telling me that his mother was Russian, so I had always assumed that I was a quarter Russian. When my father told me that my grandfather was born in Russia, that just confirmed my belief that my great-grandmother was Russian.

That is until my father told me my great-grandmother's name: Marie Krause! I remember I just looked at him and said, "Dad, that doesn't sound Rus-

sian to me." He replied, "Of course not! She was German and so were all of your other ancestors."

That threw me for a loop and I began my search to find out why these families of Germans were living in Russia. Neither my father nor my mother knew why their German ancestors had ended up in Russia.

My sister and I were not yet aware that we were part of a group of people called the Germans from Russia. We had no idea that there was not only one, but two genealogy groups here in the US that did research on the GR's.

In the next newsletter, I will explain how my sister and I started our research and the help we received in the process.

(Continued from page 2)

**Dale Wahl**

**June 7th at 1:00**

**p.m., Shadle Public  
Library**

**2111 W. Wellesley  
Ave., Spokane, WA**

## New Chapter Formed

The third meeting was the first of the chapter's research group meetings. The officer's of the group brought research items and computer databases from their personal libraries for other researchers to utilize. Over 50 books were made available as well as databases on three laptop computers.

Library computers were reserved for those researcher who wished to get a closer look at the pixel digital library.

It is the hope that as this new chapter continues to grow, more and more research materials will be made available to the it's members and guests to aid in their personal family re-

search.

Don't miss out! Join us at our next meeting on June 7th at 1:00 p.m. at the Spokane Shadle Public Library for a presentation from the very knowledgeable genealogist and researcher, Dale Wahl.

(Continued from Page 1)



Inland Northwest Chapter of GRHS  
P.O. Box 18182  
Spokane, WA 99218