

Presentation Notes & Links

Virtual Black Sea Genealogy Research Conference, January 23, 2021

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GRHC Website: The website recently underwent a total overhaul and resources are added regularly. It is a continuous “work-in-process” and we look forward to providing more resources as we expand our online presence. You can read more about the GRHC [here](#).

Below are links to some of what we touched on today in our presentation.

[Finding Aids to our Archival Research Collections](#)

- Finding aids are a guide to the contents of a particular collection, similar to the table of contents in a book. They give background information about the collection itself and provide a detailed inventory of items within the collection.

Oral Histories: GRHC staff and volunteers have conducted oral histories for over 30 years and include fascinating life stories.

- [Dakota Memories Oral History Project](#) on Digital Horizons contains 199 oral histories and associated materials. The project’s mission is to preserve the history and heritage of second- and third-generation Germans from Russia. Interviews focused on childhood memories and family relationships in North Dakota, South Dakota, and southern Saskatchewan from 2005 to 2009. In short, they chronicle what it was like growing up German-Russian on the Northern Plains.

Photograph Collections: Our photograph collections include historic photographs that preserve an important visual legacy that demonstrates the lives and unique culture of Germans from Russia and a photographic record of GRHC activities, events, travels, exhibits, etc.

- [Father William C. Sherman Photograph Collection](#) on Digital Horizons contains digitized slides and photographs of different structures that highlight the architecture and building techniques of homesteaders on the Northern Plains. Photographs taken by Father William C. Sherman, Leo Kim, and DJ Guerrero, primarily in North Dakota in the 1970s.
- The [Johannes and Christiana \(Ehni\) Schock Letter & Photograph Collection](#) on Digital Horizons contains digitized letters and photographs sent to Johannes and Christiana (Ehni) Schock from relatives in Germany, Bessarabia, and Poland, between 1936 and 1996 with the bulk from 1947 to 1951. They detail the living conditions in post-World War II Europe and how families were able to survive.

Online Store: The online GRHC store offers more than 500 books and resources for purchase, including more than 45 cookbooks. Items consist of a variety of cultural books, including North Dakota and South Dakota books, cookbooks, maps, CDs, and DVDs relating to the Germans from Russia.

Related collections on Digital Horizons from other institutions:

- The [Allen Spiker German Russian Dialect Tapes](#) (NDSU Archives) consist of original oral interviews conducted by Allen Spiker during the late 1970s and 1980s as part of his academic study in German linguistics. His focus was on the spoken dialect of German Russian immigrants and their descendants living in North Dakota.
- The [North Dakota County and Town Histories](#) (ND State Library) collection contains digitized North Dakota histories, primarily county and town histories.