

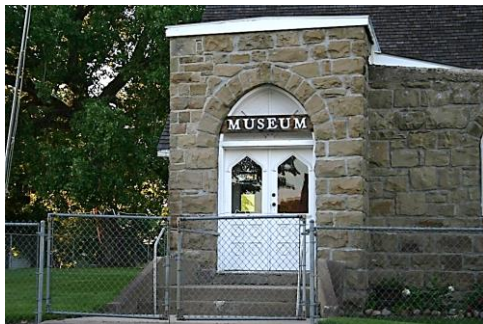
News from Home

Tri-County Tourism Alliance Newsletter – June 2020

A Museum Road Trip

IN GERMAN RUSSIAN COUNTRY

A road trip to visit museums in German Russian Country might be just the travel ticket for a summer visiting friends and relatives and taking in some historical exhibits. No need to fight crowds or traffic to spend leisurely afternoons reliving the past at museums in McIntosh, Emmons and Logan counties. Museum visits are also a great way to share personal family memories with children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren. Be sure to call ahead and check hours, availability of tours and any special arrangements that have been implemented to ensure safety of visitors and volunteers.



Since 1973, the Emmons County Museum in Linton is found in the St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and in the former rectory at 10 W. Oak Ave, Linton, ND. Exhibits focus on peoples and early immigrants, life, religion, music, and medicine in Emmons County, there is also an extensive military memorabilia display. You'll also have to visit the museum to learn more about an infamous safe from the early days of Emmons County. The museum is open Memorial Day through Labor Day, Fridays and Sundays from 2-4 and by appointment. Contact 701-254-4399 or 701-254-5462 for more information.



The McIntosh County Heritage Center is located off Highway 11 on the eastern edge of Ashley, ND. On the museum grounds you will find a church, school house, antique machinery and a land patent office. Inside the center are numerous displays and artifacts that depict German Russian immigration and life in McIntosh County. The Heritage Center is typically open without an appointment the Saturday during the Ashley Sizzling Summer Days. On your visit to Ashley there are many other historical sites to visit or enjoy other outdoor activities. Visit <https://www.ashley-nd.com/tourism/> for more information.



The Logan County Historical Society maintains several historic buildings at 708 W Lake Ave in Napoleon including a school house, church, blacksmith and harness shop and print shop. The site also includes a machine shed containing antique machinery and numerous exhibits/interpretations of the county's pioneer history. You can usually visit the site on Sundays from 1-4pm on Sundays. Call (701) 754-2640 to confirm hours of operation and for more information.

BOOK CORNER

If you enjoy historical novels, you may want to consider *Heimat* and *Heimat ii* by Shirley Wegner Nitschke who grew up near Jamestown, ND. *Heimat* is written from the perspective of a young girl named Helga who, with her father and siblings, immigrates first to the Russian steppes and eventually Dakota territory. *Heimat ii* is the story of Helga's niece, Christina, whose father and mother were sent to Siberia and her journey to America many years later. Nitschke provides historical detail that will give you renewed appreciation for the sacrifices and courage of our German Russian ancestors. Both books are available for purchase from the German Russian Heritage Collection at NDSU libraries. Visit <https://library.ndsu.edu/grhc> to order.



Get your German on this Summer!

During these unprecedented times you may choose to stay close to home this summer. Regardless, here are some ideas for reliving and sharing your German Russian heritage at home or while traveling this summer.

HOME WEDDING DANCE

To this day, descendants of early German Russian immigrants host wedding dances for family and friends. While newer generations that attend these events might prefer more current musical genres, out of tradition or respect to older wedding guests you will undoubtedly hear a fair share of polka's and waltzes. Additionally, the wedding "schnapps" would be flowing freely to ensure everyone is having a good time. If you don't have a wedding dance on your summer calendar have one with your immediate family at home. Find a recipe or a relative with wedding schnapps, download some polka and waltz music from the internet and start to shake a leg.



Henry Stuckle making homemade knoepla virtually with his Great-Grandmother Judy (Kraft) Brick.

COOK A "DOUGH" MEAL

The early Germans from Russia were very fond of dough-based meals to fill them up. Today many of us may only have a meal of dumplings, strudel or knephla very infrequently. Now is your chance to scour your church recipe books, call and invite your family and make a day of it. Add some sausage and sauerkraut and you'll think you have died and gone to heaven. Spend the day in the kitchen preparing a family feast not soon to be forgotten.

MERGE OLD and NEW

By now many of us fully utilize technology to connect with family and friends. Try hosting a video conference or social media just to share early family memories and traditions with siblings, cousins or aunts and uncles. You'll be amazed at how early experiences were imprinted on your collective brains and how much you share the same habits and traditions in current routines.

DOCUMENT YOUR FAMILY LEGACY

While family ancestry is of great interest to many German Russian descendants, don't forget to think about the legacy left behind by those courageous immigrants who left Germany for Russia and then on to America. Reconnect by phone, e-mail or social media with aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, nieces and nephews to start documenting the number of descendants, geographic distribution, educational or vocational trends for each generation.



Mark Your Calendar

Unfortunately, large group events typically planned for the summer months may be rescheduled, cancelled or have new procedures for handling or screening crowds to reduce Covid-19 transmissible events. Since plans change quickly you will want to check in advance on the status of these listed events.

June 20, 2020 – Hazelton Community Day (always the 3rd Saturday in June)

June 27-28 – Beaver Valley Horse Club Rodeo, Strasburg

August 1 – Blacksmith at the Welk Homestead

August 7-9 – Summer Fun Days in Wishek

September 6 – St. Mary's Fall Supper, Hague

September 12-13 – South Central Threshing Association's Annual Threshing Bee, Braddock

September 13 - St. Anthony's Fall Festival, Linton

September 20 – Peace Lutheran Harvest Festival, Linton

September 26-27 – Polka Party, Napoleon American Legion

FOR FUTURE DATES, UPDATES AND OTHER INFORMATION VISIT WWW.GERMANRUSSIANCOUNTRY.ORG