

News from Home

Tri-County Tourism Alliance Newsletter – March 2022

WITH SINCERE THANKS TO – Robert “Bob” Dambach



Bob Dambach with Alice (Woehl) Buerkley while filming the documentary, “Women Behind the Plow.” May 2018, Kulm, ND

Source: Michael Miller, NDSU Libraries Germans from Russia Heritage Collection.

This past January, the Tri-County Tourism Alliance lost a resolute supporter and friend to Germans from Russia. A familiar face and voice of Prairie Public as the director of television, Robert “Bob” Dambach was instrumental in filming the traditions and lifestyles of Germans from Russia. He traveled and filmed extensively in the former Bessarabian and Black Sea German villages of Strassburg, Kulm, Selz and Leipzig to capture the lifestyle of the villagers, churches, bazaars, schools, gardens, canning and farming practices. His 40-year partnership with Michael Miller and the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at NDSU Libraries created nine, locally produced, nationally distributed and award-winning documentaries in the Germans from Russia Series for Prairie Public Television.

Carmen Rath-Wald, President, Tri-County Tourism Alliance shares, “Bob Dambach’s professional record is stellar and well known throughout the region. He will be missed for the work he did and the connections he made. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to work with Bob in the making of the ‘Gutes Essen’ and ‘Women Behind the Plow’ projects.

Acacia Jonas Stuckle, Emmons County Extension Agent, writes, “It was a pleasure working with Bob to produce two documentaries with the Tri-County Tourism Alliance. He always amazed me with his vision for a project. He could see it all come together before we ever started.”

German-Russian descendants everywhere should appreciate and give sincere thanks to Bob for his talent, dedication and curiosity that brought our heritage to life in ways that we can share with our own families. Please honor his legacy by doing just that.

Dambach Germans from Russia Docuseries

Dambach’s award winning documentary videos are available online from the NDSU German Russian Heritage Collection at: <https://grhc-northdakotastate-ndus.nbsstore.net/audio-video>. You can also check your local PBS station for scheduled viewings or search on YouTube for some selections.

“The Germans from Russia, Children of the Steppe, Children of the Prairie” (1999)

“Schmeckfest: Food Traditions of the Germans from Russia” (2000)

“Prairie Crosses, Prairie Roses: Iron Crosses of the Great Plains” (2002)

“A Soulful Sound: Music of the Germans from Russia” (2005)

“It’s All Earth and Sky” (2010)

“At Home in Russia, At Home on the Prairie” (2012)

“We (Never) Don’t Forget: Germans from Russia in South America” (2015)

“Gutes Essen: Good Eating in German-Russian Country” (2017)

“Women Behind the Plow” (2019)

#prayforukraine



Talking Trail Update



Last summer, the Alliance was proud to announce a unique and timely resource to help area locals and visitors explore the rich German-Russian history in Emmons, Logan and McIntosh counties. This year, the Alliance is pleased to announce that the number of our Talking Trail sites is being expanded which has been funded in part by Humanities North Dakota, a nonprofit, independent State partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. When you visit us, please be sure to download the Google or Apple Talking Trail app. You can also visit the website (www.talkingtrail.com/tricountyalliance) to listen to narrations describing each of the sites. Consider using the resource as a teaching tool or to stimulate discussion and sharing of personal memories. A new brochure is being produced and will be available at ND rest stops along I-94 as well as various business and visitor locations in the three counties sometime in April/May.

CURRENT SITES

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - Emmons County Courthouse | - Dinosaurs on the Prairie |
| - Emmons County Museum | - Burnstad Ghost Town |
| - Welk Homestead | - McIntosh County Heritage Center |
| - Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church | - McIntosh County Courthouse |
| - South Central Threshing Ground | - Wishek Civic Center |
| - Schwab Sodhouse | - Zeeland City Hall / City Arch |
| - St. Mary's Catholic Church | - St. Andrews Churches & Cemetery |
| - St. Mary's Cemetery (Iron Crosses) | - Lehr Tabernacle |
| - Logan County Museum (2 sites) | - Lake Hoskins Settlement Marker |
| - Logan County Courthouse | - Wilhemina Geisler Bust |
| | - St. John's Cemetery Feist Family |
| | - St. John's Catholic Church |

NEW SITES

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| - Beaver Lake - History of Races |
| - Ashley Firehall |
| - Zeeland Arch |
| - Elise Perras Museum - Hazelton |
| - Keller Hotel/Hardware – Strasburg |
| - St. Luke Lutheran – Wishek |
| - Ashley Zion Lutheran Church |
| - Gordon Hoberg Story |
| - Freidens Cemetery |



Mark Your Calendar

- **March 6, 12-2PM** – Annual Close Up Soup Off and Corn Hole Tournament, Blue Room, Strasburg
- **May 19** - First scheduled race at Tri-County Speedway
- **May 26** – Welk Homestead opens for the season
- **June 4** - Johnny Holm Band, Braddock Threshing Grounds
- **June 10** – Emmons County Dairy & Ag Day, Linton
- **June 11-12** – Kick-off to Summer, Wishek
- **June 17-18** – Sizzling Summer Days, Ashley
- **June 18** – Hazelton Community Days
- **June 25-26** – Beaver Valley Horse Club Rodeo, Strasburg
- **July 13-15** – Tour group from Germany planning to visit German-Russian Country, local contact Claus Lembki
- **July 13-17** – Germans from Russia Heritage Society 51st Convention, Best Western Ramkota, Aberdeen, SD
- **July 14-17** – Tri-County Fair, Wishek
- **July 16** – Accordion Jam, Vendors and Sue Balcom at Welk Homestead (interested vendors should contact Brian Grove at 701-325-0354)
- **July 25-30** – American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Convention, Lincoln, ND

FOR UPDATES AND OTHER INFORMATION VISIT WWW.GERMANRUSSIANCOUNTRY.ORG

You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and TripAdvisor