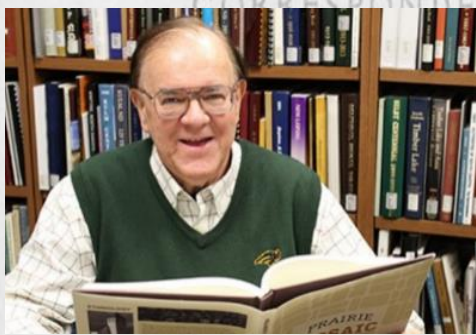


News from Home

Tri-County Tourism Alliance Newsletter – Spring 2023

A Special Thank You to

MICHAEL MILLER



To mark a well-earned retirement, members of the Tri-County Tourism Alliance wish to formally recognize and thank Michael Miller, Emeritus Director of the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at NDSU Libraries for his dedication, contributions, and continued support of the Alliance. As an extension of Michael's 55 years of tireless efforts at NDSU, the Alliance has benefited greatly from his *"lifelong dream to preserve, document, and enrich the heritage and culture of our Germans from Russia community."*

Born and raised in Strasburg, ND, Michael lived and learned first-hand the rich German Russian traditions. In 1967, he was named to the faculty of North Dakota State University, Fargo to teach library science, act as circulation librarian, and handle the library displays. In 1978, then NDSU President Loftsgard asked Michael to create the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection. A role he continued as bibliographer and eventual Director until his retirement in December 2022.

During Michael's time at NDSU and working with the Alliance, his accomplishments have benefited Germans from Russia around the globe and most definitely the many neighbors and friends in Emmons, McIntosh, and Logan counties. Since November 1996, he has written a monthly column titled "In Touch with Prairie Living" which he plans to continue.

Michael has been an executive producer on ten award-winning documentaries for Prairie Public Television that focus on Germans from Russian heritage and culture. In his rare spare time from 1996 to 2019 he also led twenty-three *Journey to the Homeland* tours allowing hundreds of German-Russians to directly experience the homeland of their ancestors and in some cases connect with distant family members.

Fortunately for us all, Michael remains committed to providing guidance and input on special GRHC and Alliance projects after his official retirement. Michael, from a grateful tri-county community of Germans from Russia, we all look forward to many more opportunities to learn and be moved by your passion for our shared heritage.

COME TO CELEBRATE, STAY AND EXPLORE

Be sure to plan your visit to Wishek and Lehr this summer to celebrate 125 years since these neighboring communities were officially founded in McIntosh County. Schedules of events and how to purchase commemorative items can be found at:

www.wishek-nd.com/quasquicentennial and www.facebook.com/Lehr125th

While you are in the area to celebrate these community milestones, be sure and explore your German-Russian heritage by visiting Talking Trail sites in McIntosh, Logan and Emmons counties. Talking Trail is a self-guided, expert-led tour consisting of audio recordings featuring stories of the rich history, culture, and heritage of the brave Germans from Russia who immigrated here years ago. Recent expansion of the number of sites was funded in part by Humanities North Dakota, a nonprofit, independent state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

To learn more visit <https://www.talkingtrail.com/tricountyalliance>. Information will be available at the Tri-County Tourism Alliance booth during the vendor/craft show in Wishek. You can also find brochures at rest area stops along I-94, Medora Visitor Center and Lewis and Clark Interpretative Center on Highway 83 near Washburn.

125 years

How German are You?

During Sauerkraut Day in Wishek last October, the Alliance conducted a brief (unscientific) survey to identify the most shared traits among likely German-Russian attendees. The table below summarizes how 61 total respondents, the majority who were over the age of 65, indicated the frequency they exhibited the listed German-Russian traits. How do you compare to these survey results?

	Often n=/%	Sometimes n=/%	Rarely n=/%
Use German phrases	20/33%	21/35%	19/32%
Prepare German foods	26/43%	27/44%	8/13%
Stubborn	24/41%	24/41%	11/19%
Bossy	14/24%	34/58%	11/19%
Freely share my feelings	22/37%	26/44%	11/19%
Frugal/thrifty	30/52%	23/40%	5/9%
Arrive early to events	37/62%	18/30%	5/8%
Research/read about my heritage	22/36%	28/46%	11/18%
More intelligent than others	17/29%	25/43%	16/28%

Sauerkraut Day Drawing Winner –

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey during Sauerkraut Day. Jordan Becker was the lucky drawing winner for a free copy of Gutes Essen.



Mark Your Calendar

- **Apr 18, 5-7pm** – Father William C. Sherman’s traveling and virtual exhibit premiere. Newman Center, Fargo
- **May 6** – Rummaging Route 83, (Citywide rummage sales: Hazelton, Strasburg and Linton)
- **May 25** – Welk Homestead opens for the season.
- **Jun 1 to Aug 1** – Women Behind the Plow Exhibit, South Central Health, Wishek
- **Jun 9** - Dairy and Ag Day, Linton
- **Jun 17** – Hazelton Community Day
- **Jun 23-25** – **Lehr 125th Quasquicentennial**
- **June 24-25** - Beaver Valley Horse Club Rodeo, Strasburg
- **Jun 30-Jul 3** – **Wishek 125th Quasquicentennial**
- **Jul 14-16** – Tri-County Fair, Wishek
- **Jul 19-22** – GRHS International Convention, Baymont Hotel, Mandan
- **Aug 6-7** – Ashley Rodeo Days
- **Oct 7** – Ashley Chamber of Commerce 9th Annual Oktoberfest and German-Russian Day
- **Oct 11** – Sauerkraut Day, Wishek
- **Oct 15** – Chili Cook-off, Linton



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