

Volga German Conference - September 16, 2017

Time	Presentations
9:00-9:15	<i>opening remarks</i>
9:15-10:15	<i>The Founding of our Villages: Presented by Steve Schreiber, Portland, Oregon. The German colonists travelled from their departure ports in Germany to Oranienbaum, Russia near St Petersburg. There they gave their loyalty to the Empress Catherine before moving in caravans on to the steppes surrounding the frontier town of Saratov and the Volga River. The peak year was 1767 with 68 colonies established. The first years were difficult and many did not survive the harsh conditions. Despite these setbacks, the Germans adapted and within a few generations, even prospered.</i>
10:15-10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30-11:30	<i>One way to write and publish a family history: Presented by Donna Bolan, Calgary, Alberta and Judy Miller, Bowden, Alberta. There are many ways to write and publish our family histories, whether it be stories and legends from our past or the vital statistics of births, deaths, and marriages. Donna will relay what she learned on her journey of recording what was important for her family history. Judy Miller will briefly describe her process of gathering and publishing her 4 family history books.</i>
11:30-1:00	<i>Bring your own bag lunch.</i>
1:00-2:00	<i>The beginning of our genealogy research: Presented by Marlene Michel, Keoma, Alberta. Genealogy research can be a daunting task for the beginner and sometimes even the most seasoned researcher. We all need to set goals and work in an organized fashion. Once we establish where to start and what we want to learn the journey begins. We will look at the various computer genealogy programs available and where to look for records and how to document what you find.</i>
2:00-2:15	<i>Break</i>
2:15- 3:00	<i>1941 Deportation: The End of the Volga German Colonies: Presented by Steve Schreiber, Portland, Oregon. On August 28, 1941 a government decree abolished the Autonomous Republic of the Volga Germans and banished the German population of the area to Siberia and Central Asia. When our ancestors came to North and South America, many of our relatives remained in Russia and were subject to this deportation decree. Where did they go? How did they get there? Where are they now?</i>