

**TO:** Krasna Researchers  
**FROM:** Ted J. Becker and Rosemary (Ternes) Mack  
Village Research Coordinators  
Krasna, Bessarabia, Russia  
Emmental, Bessarabia, Russia  
Karamurat, Dobrudscha, Romania  
**Date:** Fall, 2004

Much water has passed under the bridge since last you received a newsletter from us. We hope all is well with you and those you love.

Ted has a NEW e-mail address, for those of you who use e-mail. It is  
[tbecker@nemontel.net](mailto:tbecker@nemontel.net)

Ted's mailing address remains P.O. Box 1524, Williston, North Dakota 58854  
58854 1524 USA

Bob Schneider, manager of Schneider LLC Tours, Rapid City, South Dakota, USA, will again be leading two tours to Ukraine in 2005. Ted is planning to travel with Bob on his 25 May 2005 – 9 June 2005 tour to Ukraine. Bob assures Ted that he will arrange for sufficient time for Ted and any other visitors to visit Krasnoe (Krasna), Ukraine, with several overnight stays if so desired. Ted invites you to visit Krasna with him, Bob and his tour group. Please contact Bob at

<http://members.rushmore.com/~ukrainetours>

or

Telephone: 605-722-7712

or

1649 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Spearfish, South Dakota 57783 USA

In 2004, Tony Steinkey and his sister June McDonald and two nieces accompanied Max Riehl and others from Germany to Krasnoe (Krasna), Ukraine. June describes the trip as a "pilgrimage". We think her description says it best about traveling back to one's roots!

This past July, the Germans from Russia Heritage Society held its annual convention in Bismarck, North Dakota. Several Krasna researchers were in attendance. We gathered for an intimate, quiet supper on one of the evenings at the convention. The conversation was great. We strengthened the bonds which ties us Krasna researchers closer together by visiting, talking, laughing and enjoying each other's company.

Nearly six years have passed since we first inquired about gaining access to Catholic church (genealogical) records held in the Tiraspol Consistory/Diocesan group of church books, which are located at the State Regional Archive in Saratov, Russia. During those years, you have received from us several pleas for financial help so that we could acquire

copies of these records. We are happy to report that in October 2004, we received the last group of extractions from those diocesan church books. We have received around 2,500 photocopies pages from these books. Before the archive would copy the respective pages, they would cover all other entries on the page except those which pertained to Krasna. Thanks to the hard work of the archivist in the archive, Tanya at MITEK in Moscow, Russia (our intermediary), and Sergey Karamanov (our Russian translator), we now have all of the entries from these diocesan church books translated into English. Rosemary has been working diligently with these translated records to accomplish two things: 1) to take the data and information from them and input them into our database (which we euphemistically call "Krasna Mosaic Census, 1814-1940"), and, 2) to place the births/baptisms, the marriages and the deaths into three separate files, arranged chronologically.

In regard to the latter, it is our intention to place these three files onto a CD-Rom. The records will then be made available in an electronic version to researchers. We will notify you when the CD-Rom will be available for purchase. At this point we do not know what the CD-Rom may cost, but we are assured that the cost will be nominal. We are not interested in making a profit but in only helping researchers.

The extractions from the Saratov State Regional Archive cover the years 1814 through 1916. The archive does not have the Tiraspol Consistory/Diocesan records of records for the years 1917 through 1940. We chose not to acquire copies of those years because we do have copies of the original church books of the Catholic Church, Krasna, Bessarabia (births/baptisms/marriages/deaths) for those years. You may recall that we do have English translations of these church books available on floppy disc for researchers. The archive has similar records for the years 1814 through 1850. By the way, some of the church books for the years 1876-1878 are in such poor condition that the archivist copied from them for us, rather than to make photocopies.

We wish to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to those of you who are so kind as to give us your generous, financial help. We could not have acquired the Saratov records without your help. May God bless you for stepping forward when we asked with your help, so that we can gather and preserve these extremely valuable records. Words cannot express the gratitude we have in our hearts for your support of the work we do. Thank you!! Krasna descendants are the greatest people in the world!! God bless each and every one of you! We may not have quite enough money to pay for the translation of the final group of records. If you could send some additional financial help, we can then pay the translator. We will need about \$1,700 U.S.

Reuben Drefs shared with Ted a book entitled *Die Mundarten der Deutschen Mutterkolonien Bessarabiens und ihre Stammheimat* (The Dialects of the

German Mother Colonies in Bessarabia and their Home of Origin) written by Albert Ecker. The book he showed Ted is a 1974 reprint of the 1941 book published by N. G. Elwert of Marburg, Germany. Thank you to Ambrose Leinz for translating pages 53-59 into English. In these pages Mr. Ecker forth his argument that some of the original settlers of Krasna may have emigrated from a small area just south of Simmern, Germany, centered two villages, namely, Gmünden and Kirchberg. Ted has looked at some microfilms he borrowed from the Family History Library at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) of Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, which contain copies of some church books from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries for these two villages. So far he has not found any names among the entries which are similar to surnames associated with the original settlers of Krasna. He is continuing to look at more microfilms from the Family History Library, though. Ted finds Mr. Ecker's argument compelling, though. He notes that in villages in that region of Germany where Low German was spoken, he interviewed members of both the older and younger generations. He noted no considerable difference between the speech of the old and that of the young. He speaks directly to his premise that the original settlers may have originated from the region around Landstuhl, Germany. The section of the booklet which references the possible origination area of the original settlers of Krasna, is filled with innumerable examples of close ties to the dialect spoken by the residents of Krasna.

The Krasna web site – <http://14ushop.com/krasna> - remains an active site. About once a week someone contacts Ted as a result of finding the Krasna web site. Researchers from Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Canada, as well as the USA, have found the web site and come to understand that we can be of help to them with their research into their roots in Krasna. Recently, we revised the name-sorted lists on the site to make the lists more current. For those of you who do not use computers, you might find it interesting if you are visited with a friend of yours who has Internet access. Your friend could show you the web site and all it has to offer researchers regarding Krasna and daughter colonies.

Ambrose Leinz and his wife Sybille continue to translate the hundreds of newspaper articles we copied from microfilmed copies of the German newspaper *Staats Anzeiger*. Faustina (Dirk) Chandler continues to organize the English translations into separate files. When the translation and organization work is completed, the translated articles will be made available to researchers on a CD-Rom. I must say that the articles, which begin in 1907 and continue through 1940, are a mini-history of Krasna all unto themselves. I have found a number of letters to the editor, which my maternal grandfather as well as my maternal great-grandfather wrote to the editor of the newspaper. To read them is like hearing a voice from the past.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Above all, I wish you

**Peace**