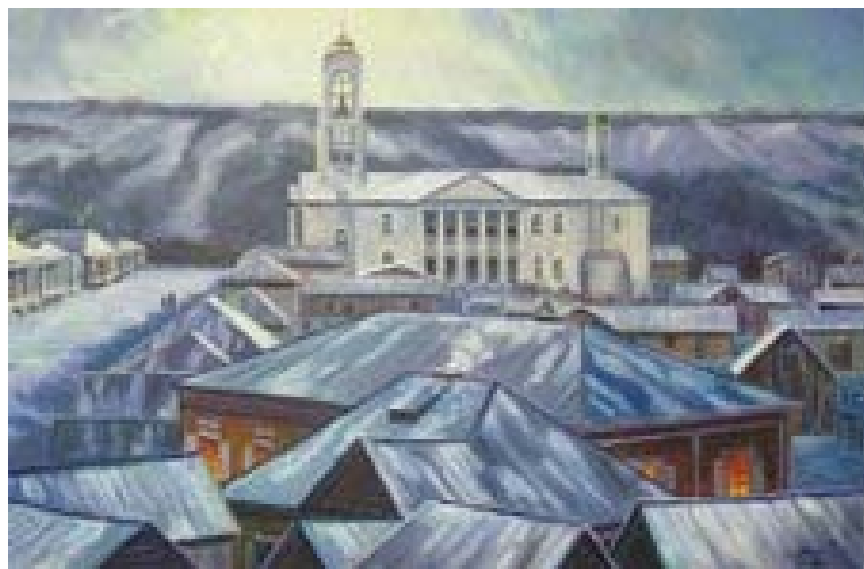


MARIENTAL CHASSELOIS LOUIS DAYS OF YORE

DECEMBER 2007

ISSUE SEVENTEEN



Mariental, Russia by Michael Boss
oil on linen – 20” x 30”
Artwork copyrighted by artist

Topics:

Editor’s Comments

Feature Stories:

- 1) Volga Church’s**
- 2) A visit to Mariental,
and Neu-Mariental by Sandy Norris**

GR Proverb:

**Make the visit short and
not so often go.**

**Whisper: Another drawing from our
great 1689 Baptism Record Artist**

Here is another set of the churches I am featuring. I am really impressed by these wonderful churches designed and built by the Volga Germans so long ago. We can all be very proud of our ancestors. The churches that were on the tours this past summer during the AHSGR Convention, proves that our people still had the same talents. I would want our great, great, grandchildren to be able to look at the churches built during our parents watch. What a great historical gift to our future generations.

JULY: Lutheran Church in Grechichino (Walter)



Ev.-Luth. Kirche in Walter (Grechichino) - Лютеранская церковь в с. Гречихино (Вальтер)

On the border of Saratov/Volvograd regions, there is a road which goes back and forth, to and from the Volga River. This landscape is so gorgeous – so strange you could have the impression that the area is uninhabited. But if you will be patient and if you will walk for a couple of hours, one of the dirt roads will suddenly go down to the Medvedi. The view from this point is unbelievable. Everything is green – like the forest. You can see 20-30 white houses over the river and like a theatrical setting; there is a red/brown

(due to age) huge church which sits alone on a bluff. This is the village named “Grechichino (Black Wheat). Here on the banks of the beautiful little river, German colonists were growing honey, which is the second name of this beautiful place in Walter. (Before the Church, there was a wooden prayer house for 1500 people.) Here were Lutherans who came from Frank.

In 1903, this Church was built according to the project of Jacob Maar and Jacob Shesler. The engineering part was arranged by the Technical Bureau of Heinrich Devendrus from Riga. But after the deportation of the Germans from this area, the Church was empty for a long time. In the village there remained only six families. Now the village is getting bigger every year and maybe in the future this beautiful building will function as a Church again.

AUGUST: The Lutheran Church of Schilling (Sosnovka)



Ev. kth. Kirche in Schilling (Sosnovka) - Деревянная церковь в с. Сосновка (Иркутск)

The colony of Schilling (Sosnovka) was one of the first, founded in 1764. The place chosen for it was excellent; on the right shore of the Volga, 50 km to the south of Saratov. “ It was built in a wide valley, fed by streams which flow between the hills before they gave their waters to the Volga. Less steep rises surround the valley, colored here and there, covered with wonderful thickets of dwarf elm, oak, and willow,” so wrote academic P.S. Pallas at the end of the 18th century.

While the colony was not one of the largest, (429 inhabitants at its founding, 3574 in 1912), it was well known in the district and played an important business role. Here there was a huge timber wharf, from which began the winter trade route from the Volga to another river, The Medveditsa. In the winter, Sosnovka came alive: traders of grain and sarpinka arrived from the nearby, and not so nearby, colonies and villages.

Mostly Lutherans lived in Sosnovka, which was part of the Talovka (Beideck) parish. As told, the first prayer house was built there, at the expense of the state, at the founding of the colony. The parishioners raised a new church here by themselves, one hundred years later. It was consecrated in 1883. Now the church in Sosnovka is the only surviving example of wooden German churches in the Volga region (at the end of the 1880's and beginning of the 1890's of this decade, similar examples in the villages of Galka, Zvonareka, Philippovka were destroyed.) The church is not very well preserved, and of course, has not functioned for years. Now it is a warehouse for grain.

The architecture of the structure is fairly simple and modest. Actually, such churches were often designed and built by master colonists themselves, without participation of professional architects or engineers. But the skillfully chosen location, on the side of a hill overlooking the village, with the background of the endless mirror of the Volga, makes the wooden temple the object of local sightseers.

Examining it more closely, you become convinced that it is fairly elegant and well-proportioned. Finally, the cut details are interesting: the framer of the doors, the windows, and the pilasters, are lovingly cut of wood by local masters. Without a doubt, the church belongs to the Volga Germans.

SEPTEMBER: Ev-Lutheran Church in Neu-Walter (Swerdlowo)



Many remember that the extensive family of German colonies on the Volga, up to 260 in the 1920's, consists of two generations" "mother" and "daughter" settlements. The first 106 colonies were founded between 1760 and 1770. Later several others were added. During the second half of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, many of the colonies had grown so much that part of their population had to find new places of residence. The previous colonies had become too bustling, too crowded, there

were not enough fields and ponds. Several families or groups of families split off into villages and farmsteads. Thus, for example, at the end of the 19th century, the "daughter" colony of Neu-Walter arose. Part of the colonists from Grechinaya Luka (Walter) moved to the other shore of the Mediveditsa and settled there, some twenty kilometers from the "mother" colony. The new village was economically successful, and grew dynamically. At one time, from 1940 – 1950, Sverdlovo (as it is now called) was even the administrative center of this extensive region. Now, this is a large, successful village with great brick residences, a hospital, stores, and a club. Most of these buildings were constructed sometime by Germans. The club is nothing less than the former branch of the Lutheran Church. It was built at the beginning of this century. Of course, it is somewhat more modest in thought and execution than the temple in the "mother" colony. There are no great spires or bell towers; there is no rich decoration of the facades. But the architecture of the building is completely independent, mature, reflecting its prototype in the rhythm of its windows and pilasters, themes of its cornices, and its silhouette.

Mariental and Neu-Mariental .

“My 2 daughters and I went to Russia in 2001 and toured all our ancestral villages. What a fun trip. I'd really like to go again. Her grandfather was baptized in the Mariental church. (As was my father and grandfather)
Sandy Norris”

These photos are of the Mariental cemetery. There is a common grave with a huge cross. All of the founders of the colony were buried there and 6 plaques listed their names in Russian. One of my ancestors is Sanders and the interpreter is holding a pen under that name. There were 2 plaques for Sanders. Later, at the Engels archives I also learned that my Herrmann ancestors were also original founders of Mariental. (They later moved to Neu Mariental)



Note the unique iron crosses, no two are ever the same. The GR bought this tradition with them to the US as many Midwestern cemeteries have these unique iron crosses also.



Our driver, Yuri, told us that the German graves faced the opposite direction from the Russian graves.

This house is now the home of Town Prosecutor.



These are some homes in Mariental and a look down the street. They are the original German homes. They say the villages

haven't changes in 100 years and I truly believe it.

We had to take a potty stop out in the trees. We brought along a picnic lunch because there weren't any restaurants, also no gas stations. Everything was very primitive.



These photos show a couple of tractors in Mariental. One sitting in front of a house and the other one was going down the street.





We saw these motorcycles with the side carts in the villages and out in the country. In Mariental there are people in the side cart, out in the country we saw them sometimes filled with wheat.

This is the last of the photos. The brick building is in Mariental. They are bricking over the old



wood. I have enclosed a photo from Stahl that shows them bricking over the old



house. It's kinda interesting. The 3rd photo is a close up of an original home in Neu Mariental. Notice the ornate designs around the



top, over the windows, on the corners. For some reason we didn't see a lot of this in Mariental, maybe we just missed it?

Last is a photo of Dr. Pleve. We met with him, he delivered a chart to one of the people with our tour and we got to ask him questions, etc.



**International Convention of Germans From
Russia
Casper, Wyoming
July 28-August 3, 2008**

**Make plans now to attend this joint convention of the GHRS and the
AHSGR**

www.germansfromrussia.net 402-474-3363(AHSGR) 701-223-6167(GHRS)

Whisper: Another interesting drawing in the middle of this page of the Catholic Baptism Records – about 1689, sent to me by Darrell Brungardt. If you can read it after enlarging it – let me know what the name is, please.


24
 Februarij 1689 baptizata est Anna ~~Christina~~ ^{Christina} ~~filia~~
 illegitima filia Magdalena Schmidt ex obitibus
 Patris Joannes Müller. Patris Anna Elisabetha
 Schmidt ambo ex Glaribus.

J
 Martij 1689 baptizata est Anna Catharina Schmidt
 legitima et naturalis filia Joannis et Clara Schmidt
 ex Dornijß Patris Vincentius Dornijß Patris
 Anna Catharina Holler pro tempore Substituta
 in Dornijß

2
 Eodem baptizatus Mattheus Dornijß
 legitimus et naturalis filius Philippi
 Caroli et Barbarae Dornijß ex broid. Patris
 Mattheus Dornijß ex broid. Patris
 in Grynwiller.

6
 Martij 1689 baptizata est Susanna Muntzall legitima
 et naturalis filia Matthei et Clara Muntzall ex Dornijß
 Patris Mattheus Kohl ex Grynwiller Patris
 Susanna Annapron ex Grynwiller

8
 Martij 1689



13
 Martij 1689 baptizatus est Joes Dornijß
 legitimus et naturalis filius Blasij et Barbara Dornijß
 Patris Joannes Patris

18
 Aprilij 1689 baptizatus est Henricus Emericus
 legitimus et naturalis filius Jois et Anna
 Catharina Emericus Patris Henricus
 Volmar Dornijß Patris Catharina Dornijß
 Emericus ex Grynwiller.

10
 Mayi baptizatus est Petrus Schmidt legitimus
 et naturalis filius Philippi et Anna Schmidt ex Grynwiller
 Patris Dornijß Grynwiller Patris Schmidt ex Grynwiller

Only