

# Ronald J. Vossler

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## EDUCATION:

B.A. Anthropology. Arizona State. 1971.  
M.A. English. University of North Dakota. 1987.

## EMPLOYMENT:

1975-present: Free-lance writer and Humanities scholar.  
1992-2008. Sr. Lecturer. University of North Dakota  
English Department.

## HONORS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

- Fulbright Fellowship. 2010. Ukraine. "Breaking the Silence: Ukraine's Labyrinth of Memory and an Exploration of Its German Minority in the Holocaust, 1941-1944."
- First place. Manhattan Film Festival, August, 2011. Feature film *Under Jakob's Ladder*. (historical consultant)
- Redemptive Storyteller Award, Redemptive Film Festival, Virginia Beach, Virginia. November 13, 2010. Feature film *Under Jakob's Ladder*. (historical consultant)
- Named member of International Committee of the Ukrainian World Congress, 2007.
- *Dakota Kraut* named one of top twelve memoir books in North Dakota history by Read North Dakota.
- Joseph Height Literary Award. Germans from Russia Historical Society, Bismarck, N.D. 2001.
- Maxwell Anderson Award, University of North Dakota, for "...outstanding achievement in Arts and Sciences." 2000.
- Gold Aurora Award, An International Competition Honoring Excellence in Film and Video Industries, for the documentary *Schmeckfest: Food Traditions of the Germans From Russia*. 2000.
- Silver Telly Award from Center for Creativity as "...one of America's best documentaries" for the documentary film *Germans from Russia: Children of the Steppe/Children of the Prairie*. '99.
- Finalist in the 3rd International Ethnic Television Festival. *Germans from Russia: Children of the Steppe/Children of the Prairie*. Cracow, Poland. 2000.
- Silver Telly Award from Center for Creativity, for the documentary *Heaven in Our Homeland: The Glueckstalers of New Russia and North America*.
- Remele Fellowships from North Dakota Humanities Council for "Prairie Spass: Germans from Russia Folk Humor," 1998; "We'll Meet Again in Heaven," 2000; and "Blood Washes Blood?: Genocide and Ethnic Revenge in Ukraine, 1915-1945." 2006.
- John Hovey Creative Writing Fellowship. North Dakota Council on the Arts. 1986.

## PUBLIC HUMANITIES APPEARANCES

- Guest performer, *Dakota Air: The Radio Show*, Prairie Public Radio. April 9, 2011 performance, live in Wishek N.D. Civic Center.
- Key-note speaker, "All in One Sack: Humor and Tragedy of the Germans from Russia," *Dakota Memories Heritage Tour*, September 17, 2011. Wishek, North Dakota. North Dakota State University Germans from Russia Heritage College.
- Visiting scholar for the National Endowment for the Humanities Focus Grant, "Language of the Land: A Journey into the Great Plains Life and Literature," Lake Region State College, Devils Lake, North Dakota. April 5, 2000.
- Guest writer and panelist. University of North Dakota's 21st Annual Writers' Conference, "Literature of Immigration." Grand Forks, North Dakota. March 21-22. 1990.
- Guest writer for the Red River Valley Writing Project, local site of National Writing Project, at University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota. Summers, 1999, 2000, 2001.
- Guest writer at the symposium "The Wind, the Land, the People," at Minot State University, Minot, North Dakota. April 5, 1999.
- Guest writer at the symposium "Heretics, Dreamers, Rebels, and Skeptics: The Writer's Life" at Minot State University, Minot, North Dakota. April 6, 7, 8, 2003.
- Remele Fellowship presentations in North Dakota, including Wishek, Ashley, Devils Lake, Bismarck, Minot, Dickinson, Fessenden, Belcourt, Fargo, and Aberdeen, South Dakota, 1998-2008.

- Various presentations, radio and television interviews, and appearances in the United States and Canada, including German cultural festivals, college campuses, town centennial celebrations, Germans from Russia International Conventions, and other events. 1990-2008.

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS & FILMS:

*Dakota Kraut*. Memoir. 2003.  
*Why I Never Called Death the River*. Novella. 2002.  
*Lost Shawls and Pig Spleens*. Folklore. 2002.  
*We'll Meet Again in Heaven*. Translations. 2001.  
*Not Until the Combine Is Paid*. Folk humor. 2001.  
*Schmeckfest: Germans from Russia Food Traditions*. Documentary film. 1999.  
*Children of the Steppe/Children of the Prairie*. Documentary film. 1998.

### ARTICLES, REVIEWS, POEMS, & TRANSLATIONS:

"The Cleansing and Destruction of the Kulaks of Neudorf, Soviet Ukraine" in *Journal of American Historical Society of Germans from Russia*. Lincoln, Nebraska. Spring, 2011, Vol. 34, No. 1.  
 "In Our Hearts We Felt the Sentence of Death: Ethnic German Recollections of Mass Violence in the USSR, 1928-1938." *Journal of Genocide Research*, Volume 10, #3, 2008.  
 "Starvation in Russia," feature article in *REC/RTC Magazine*. August, 1999.  
 "We'll Meet Again in Heaven," tabloid publication by North Dakota Humanities Council, 2000; translated into German and reprinted in *Heimatbuch der Deutschen aus Russland*. Lands-mannschaft der Deutschen aus Russland. Stuttgart, Germany. 2000-2001; in *Volk auf dem Weg Magazine*. Stuttgart, Germany. Fall/Winter, 2001; and excerpted in *Welcome to Ukraine*. Kiev, Ukraine. 2002.  
 "Prairie Spass: The Folk Humor of North Dakota's Germans from Russia," tabloid publication by North Dakota Humanities Council. March, 1999; reprinted in *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Plains*. Vol. 66. Summer/Fall, 1999.  
 "First Crop," prose-poem in *Earth's Daughters: A Feminist Arts Periodical*. Winter, 1995; and reprinted in *The Anthology of Magazine Verse/Yearbook of American Poetry*, 1996.  
 "Honey, Milk, and Eggs: A Black Sea German Journey," feature article in *North Dakota Horizons Magazine*. Winter, 1996; reprinted in *Heritage Review*, the Journal of Germans from Russia Historical Society. Bismarck, North Dakota. March, 1997.  
 "At Peterstal: A 'Container' Village in Ukraine," article in *Grand Forks Herald*, Grand Forks, North Dakota. July 21, 1996.  
 "My Grandmother's Last Journey," and "All the Other Ottos," prose-poems in *Passager: A Journal of Remembrance and Discovery*. Baltimore, Maryland. Spring, 1998.  
*Wedding in the Darkness: Three Accounts from Collectivization and the Great Terror*. 2008. *The Old God Still Lives*. Translations. 2005.  
*We'll Meet Again in Heaven*. Documentary film. 2005.  
*Heaven is Our Homeland*. Documentary film. 2005.

### SHORT FICTION & MEMOIR:

"Frieda the Trowel Queen and the Lost Jehus," short story. *Forkroads: A Journal of Ethnic American Literature*. Spring, 1996.  
 "Flood," memoir. *Ghost of Lake Agassiz*. University of North Dakota. Summer, 1997; and reprinted in "In Touch With Prairie Living" column, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries. June, 1997.  
 "Her Week of the Jew," short story. *Plainswoman Magazine*. University of North Dakota. June/July 1986; reprinted in *Prairie Volcano: An Anthology of North Dakota Writing*. St. Ives Press. Spring, 1995.  
 "Some Archaic Tongue," memoir in *Journal of American Historical Society of Germans from Russia*. Lincoln, Nebraska. Spring, 1998.