

Biography of Allen Konrad



Allen Konrad was born and raised in the heart of North Dakota's "German-Russian triangle" in Pomona View Township, LaMoure County, near Kulm. He is Black Sea German through and through with both his father's and mother's families coming from Bessarabian villages, specifically Paris, Klöstitz, and Alt-Posttal. His wife's (Mary Lu Patton) Black Sea German ancestors come from the villages of Rohrbach and Worms in the Beresan district.

Allen was ordained in 1966, and served in Ghana, Liberia, Botswana, and South Africa for 20 years as a missionary with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He put in more than 500 hours as a licensed single engine private pilot in the 1980s...stopping only when he was called to serve in the Kalahari Desert! He has also been a parish pastor in Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.

Now retired and living in eastern Iowa, genealogy and translating documents pertaining to Germans from Russia is his pastime. He even has a little working knowledge of the old German handwriting (Kurrent). He loves to help others who are researching their Black Sea German family roots and hopes to pass on his love for family history to his 3 children and 19 grandchildren. Allen has served for several years as the spokesperson for the Bessarabia Regional Interest Group in the Germans from Russia Heritage Society.