

Roger Haas asked me to write about a new Black-sea.org website that I have had a small part in. But to tell you about it, I really have to explain a little about the person to whom the site is dedicated. We have dedicated to it to Dale Lee Wahl who, sadly, passed away in 2008. For those who did not know Dale, he was an exceptional individual who was deeply committed to sharing. Dale, through the years, became a focal point for many people interested in finding out about their German from Russia heritage. He was always interested in freely sharing with anyone who asked him for information he might have. So that is the driving philosophy behind the site: free sharing of genealogical data.

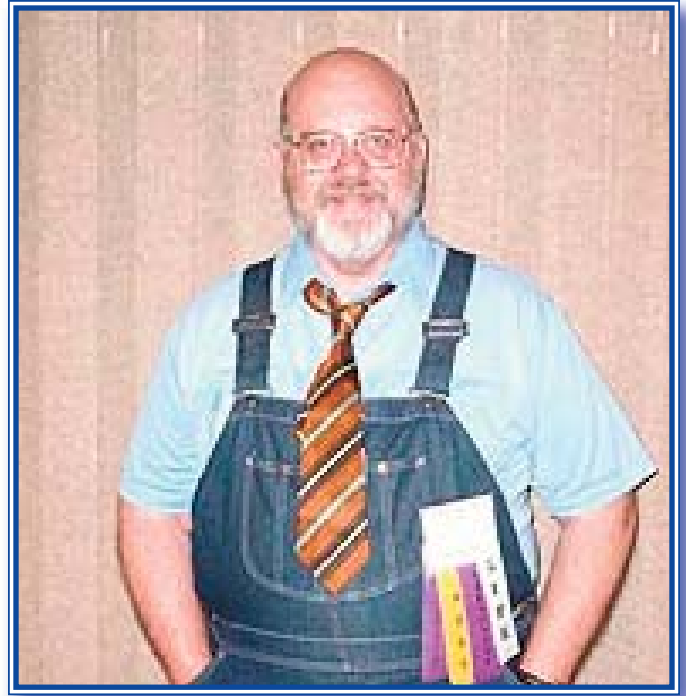


**Bob Schauer**

Related to the story of the website is the story behind the process which we went through in dealing with Dale's data, or what we have come to call the *Dale Wahl Collection*. Dale had accumulated a huge volume of paper and electronic files, and we are still processing this information. Incidentally, we are always looking for volunteers to help out in the process. If you have any interest, please contact me and I will get you connected to individuals who can definitely find something for you to do.

Initially, we sorted through his papers and set aside anything we could find that was appropriate for the GRHS library. Many of Dale's books and other papers were already in the library, but had some sales value. So this part of his collection was sold off in a silent auction at a GRHS convention several years ago. The proceeds of the auction went toward a charitable cause. The balance of the paper data was scanned into electronic files, and this part of the collection is going to be our main focus in the upcoming years. So far, we have only processed a small fraction of this scanned paper information.

Dale's electronic data, mostly in the form of electronic databases of family information, has been posted to the website's database. The database is a very large collection of data from Dale's electronic data along with personal data from those of us working on Dale's files, and also data from many others who have freely shared their family data with us. We encourage anyone who has German from Russia her-



**Dale Wahl**

itage to contribute his/her family data to the database. Of course, we also track family data concerning ancestry in Germany prior to the migrations of Germans to Russia, and their North American and European descendents. I may be biased, but I feel the database is a fantastic resource for anyone with German heritage from the Black Sea region of Russia. I strongly encourage people to check out the database and research their family names. My bet is that many people will be surprised at what they will find.

The website also contains discussion forums related to Germans from Russia culture and heritage. The site contains links that might assist people in doing their family research, including links to other websites that might be helpful. Related to the website is maintenance of the Facebook page that has proven very popular.

Dale Wahl was, as I mentioned, an exceptional fellow. I believe that he would be pleased that his friends have committed themselves to continuing his work. I, for one, feel fortunate for the opportunity, both to have known Dale, and the opportunity to honor his memory by working closely with his close friends who all deeply miss him. All of us involved in the webpage have found a way to honor his memory.