

Waldo H. BALZER

14 S. E. 85th Avenue
Portland, OR. 97216-1029
28 May 1987

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Mr. Walter Kapahnke,
Forschungsstelle Westpreußen der AGoFF
An der Hellrüsche 24,
D-4902 Bad Salzungen, Germany

Dear Mr. Kapahnke:

Your name and genealogical society have been given to me by the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Lincoln, Nebraska, as a place where I can locate information regarding my family's fore-fathers' genealogy in Prussia.

The enclosed "Genealogy of HEINRICH AND ELIZABETH BALTZER" is the data that I have been able to discover so far. Does your society have information that pre-dates the data I have found? Do ~~YOU~~ you have information on the places that have been colored yellow? I would greatly appreciate any assistance you can give me in my family genealogy search.

The Baltzer (now Balzer) family has been identified with Mennonites, who came out of Holland in the 1500s. I believe from there that they migrated to North Germany (in the area north of Gießen and Frankfurt am Main) and later moving to the Wisla River Valley (south of Danzig). From West Preußen they relocated in the Molotschna area in Russia before coming to the United States in 1876.

Last summer, while my wife and I were living in Freiberg am Neckar, I made a trip to Gießen and researched for genealogy material in the Gießen University Library. I was unable to find anything there that could help me. The location of your research society is unfamiliar to me. If I had known about your service and its location I would have taken the time to visit you.

I could have typed this letter in German but it would have been quite time-consuming and my German grammar could have needed interpretation. I trust you will understand my request for help and will be able to respond.

Vielen Dank für ihre Hilfe und Ich hoffe bald von Sie zu hören.

Sincerely yours,

Waldo H. Balzer

P.S. I am enclosing \$2.00 in U. S. currency to pay for your service and the cost of mailing a reply.

Dr. Adalbert Goertz
12934 Birkhau Trail E
Waynesboro Pa. 17268 USA

Mark