

# Elaine Frank Davison Germans from Russia collection, 1900-2000

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Davison, Elaine Frank
<b>Title</b>	Elaine Frank Davison Germans from Russia collection
<b>Dates</b>	1900-2000 (inclusive) 1900 2000 1970-2000 (bulk) 1970 2000
<b>Quantity</b>	8 linear feet, (8 boxes)
<b>Collection Number</b>	WCMss.020
<b>Summary</b>	This collection contains interviews on cassette tapes, publications, research files, and family correspondence pertaining to Germans from Russia created by a genealogist from Walla Walla, Washington.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Whitman College and Northwest Archives</a> Whitman College and Northwest Archives Penrose Library, Room 130 345 Boyer Avenue Walla Walla, WA 99362 Telephone: 509-527-5922 Fax: 509-526-4785 <a href="mailto:archives@whitman.edu">archives@whitman.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## Biographical Note

Elaine Frank Davison was born in Walla Walla, Washington on August 23, 1929 to Johann Conrad and Maria Catherine Frank, Germans from Russia who immigrated to the United States in 1905. She was the youngest of eight children. Her interest in the stories of the Volga Germans was piqued by her father's stories of his homeland. Upon his death in 1959, she took up genealogical research. Ultimately, she became responsible for recovering and preserving the history of her family's home village of Kautz / Werschinka. Davison spent her childhood in Walla Walla. After graduating from high school, she worked for the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company. In 1949, she married George Hite Davison, and the couple moved to Spokane, Washington. They had four children: James Hite, Lorelee, Julie Ann, and Karla Elaine. Elaine returned to work in 1960 at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane. The family returned to Walla Walla in 1963, where Elaine began working as a medical transcriptionist.

A self-taught researcher and writer, Davison self-published books about the village, entitled "Unsere Leute von Kautz" (Our People from Kautz). Her "Kautz Project" required numerous oral history interviews, as many of the relevant genealogical records remain in Germany and Russia. In 1990,

Davison and her work were featured in "Making a Difference: A Centennial Celebration of Washington Women, Volume II," a curriculum handbook created by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Elaine Frank Davison died on March 17, 2001.

## Content Description

The collection, which consists of Elaine Frank Davison's research files and publications, is divided into six series: Sound Recordings, Publications by Elaine Davison, Genealogical Research, Correspondence, Obituaries, and Miscellaneous. It is a rich source of information for both genealogists and researchers interested in the immigration and ethnic history of Eastern Washington.

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated to the Whitman College and Northwest Archives by Julie Davison Loiacono in January 2003. The accession number is retro-0015.

### Separated Materials

"Laurel's Story: A Montana Heritage" by Elsie P. Johnston (1979) and issues of "Der Kirchenbote / The Christian Messenger" from the 1950s-1970s were transferred to the Acquisitions Department of Penrose Library.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### 1: Sound Recordings, 1973-1997

3 linear feet, (3 boxes)

The Sound Recording Series consists of 262 cassette tapes of interviews and lectures relating to Davison's research on Germans from Russia. An inventory of the Sound Recordings Series is available in Box 1 of the collection.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<a href="#">Box</a>		
1	Cassette Tapes, 1-95	1975-1995, undated
2	Cassette Tapes, 96-185	1973-1997, undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3	Cassette Tapes, 186-262	1973-1998

## 2: Publications by Elaine Davison, 1978-1998

0.2 linear feet, (7 folders)

The Publications by Elaine Davison Series includes eight volumes of *Unsere Leute von Kautz*, a compilation of photocopies marriage license returns for Germans from Russia in Walla Walla County, 1891-1912, and the text of a speech delivered in 1998.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Folder	
4	1-5 "Unsere Leute von Kautz"	1978-1989
4	6 "Early Marriage License returns of Germans from Russia in Walla Walla County, Washington, 1891-1912"	1998
4	7 "Realizing My Dream"	1998

## 3: Genealogical Research Files, 1900-2000

2.5 linear feet, (approximately 3 boxes)

The Genealogical Research Series contains research files on specific families in Washington and Montana, publications (most issued by various historical societies), and reprinted censuses from various German colonies in the Volga region. Many of the materials about the Rempel family were written by Arthur B. Rempel, a member of Whitman College faculty from 1938-1975.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Folder	
4	8-10 American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Newsletter	1971-1997
4	11 "Hussenback Review"	1997-1998
4	12 "Jeruslan Nachrichten"	1994-1997
4	13 Ragas Report	1997-1999, undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4 14	Descriptions of the Saratov Colonies of Oleshna / Dietel, Grechinaua Luka / Walter, Karamyshevka / Bauer, and Yelshanka / Husaren in 1798	1995-1996
4 15	Descriptions of the Saratov Colonies of Yagodnaya Polyana, Pamyatnaya / Rothammel, and Linevo Ozero / Hussenbach	1996
4 16	"Deutsches Namenlexikon"	1972
4 17	HEME###E ##### ## #####	1998
4 18	"Logan County, Colorado Cemetery Survey"	1984
4 19	"Yellowstone County Montana Cemeteries" Vol. 1	1984
4 20	"Yellowstone County Montana Cemeteries" Vol. 2	1985
5 1	"Beyond the Gates: A Tribute to those Uprooted Emigrants from Merkel, Russia and neighboring colonies Whose Insight Sought Freedom in Foreign Lands. A Memorial to Those Who Stayed Behind."	2000
5 2	"Sod 'N Seed 'N Tumbleweed: A History of the Huntley Project"	1977
5 3	"Usere Leute von Walter" Number 2	1978
5 4	Index to Place Names Found in "from Catherine to Khrushchev"	1986
5 5	"Long Meadows", by Minnie Hite Moody	1941
5 6	"Too Far to Go Back: Wagons West and the Germans from Russia"	1992
5 7	Goly Karamysh / Balzer 1775 and 1798 Census Revisions	1995
5 8	Norka 1811 Census Revision	1996
5 9	Neu-Hussenback 1857/1858 Census	1997
5 10	Norka / Weigand 1775 and 1798 Censuses	1995

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5 11	Kolb 1798-1858 Censuses	undated
5 12	Pobochnaya 1772 and 1798 documents	1995
5 13	Gololobovka / Dönhof 1775 and 1798 Censuses	undated
5 14	Splavnikha / Huck 1775 and 1798 Censuses	1995
5 15	Popovka / Kutter 1775 and 1798 Censuses	undated
5 16	Ust-Zolikha / Messer 1775 and 1798 Censuses	1995
5 17	Susly / Herzog 1798 documents	1995
5 18	Lesnoy Karamysh / Grimm 1775 and 1798 Censuses	undated
5 19	Frank Family: Lineages Report	1995
5 20	Frank, John David and Elizabeth Family Record	undated
5 21	Frank Family Reunion Invitation	[1982]
5 22	Frank, John George Family Tree	1987
5 23	Frank, Carl G. Life Story	undated
5 24	Frank, Alexander Experiences of	1977
5 25	Frank Family, Biography of	1977
5 26	Frank Family Genealogy / Christ Lutheran Church Records	1978
5 27	Frank, Johann Conrad Family File	undated
5 28	Interviews with Wilhelm "William" Frank, "Uncle Bill"	1977
5 29	Interview with Uncle Bill	1979
6 1	Statuten- und Protokollbuch der Evang. St. Paulsgemeinde in Walla Walla, Wash, 1907 (photocopy)	1977

Container(s)		Description	Dates
6	2	"Some Experiences of My Life" by Emil Weissner, Sr.	1995
6	3	Notes from Trip to USSR and Volga Colonies	1991
6	4	Mary Gally	undated
6	5	Miller Family Tree	1980
6	6	Rempel Trilogy	1993
6	7	"The Story of Greta" by Arthur G. Rempel	1996
6	8	"Memories" by Arthur G. Rempel	1993
6	9	Rempel, Miscellaneous	1993
6	10	Apropos to H. G. Rempel's Diary	undated
6	11	"My Trip to America: the Diary of Evangeline G. Rempel, 1922-1923"	1964
6	12	A Family in Exile at a Labor camp	1995
6	13	George Steinmetz Families	1900-1985

#### 4: Correspondence, 1913-1982

0.2 linear feet, (8 folders)

The Correspondence Series contains letters in English, Russian, and German exchanged among Elaine Frank Davison and various family members. Many of the letters in German and Russian are translated.

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
6	14	Correspondence from Siberia (Dines Frank / Amalia Frank)	1913-1979
6	16-17	Correspondence from Siberia, Copies and Translations	1975-1982
6	18	Correspondence from Russia to William Frank	1969-1980

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6 19	Correspondence from Dinis Frank to William Frank	1969-1982
6 20	Correspondence to Katharine Benzel	undated
6 21-22	Miscellaneous Correspondence	1974-1982

## 5: Obituaries, 1920-1997

2 linear feet, (2 boxes)

The Obituaries Series consist primarily of photocopies of newspaper obituaries of Volga Germans from Russia who resided in Walla Walla, Washington; Yakima, Washington; Laurel, Montana; and Billings, Montana.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box</b>		
7	Obituaries A-J	1920-1997
8	Obituaries K-Z	1920-1997

## 6: Miscellaneous, 1981-1998

0.1 linear feet, (4 folders)

Miscellaneous items in the collection include photographs and a photo album, maps of Russia, and a clipping file.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
6 23	Maps	undated
6 24	Album	1981
6 25	Photographs	1991
6 26	Clippings	1990-1998

## Names and Subjects

### Personal Names :

Elaine Frank Davison Germans from Russia collection, 1900-2000  
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv04803>

Rempel, Arthur G. (Arthur Gustav)

**Family Names :**

Frank family

Rempel family

Colleen McFarland and Emi Hastings  
2006



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