

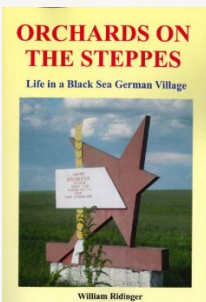
William Ridinger



William Ridinger: Bill's father was born in Rohrbach in the Black Sea colonies. His family lost everything during the collectivization in 1932 and his father was sent to a prison camp, and was later executed. He and his brothers joined the German army in World

War II and fought against his Soviets. He was captured by the Americans and found himself in Germany while his brothers remained in the Soviet Union. The rest of the Rohrbach villagers were evacuated in March, 1944. After evacuation to Poland, they had to flee again from the Soviet army. Some of his family made it to a refugee camp in Germany, where they waited for asylum. Others were taken back to the Soviet Union and relocated to Kazakhstan and Siberia. Despite the separation they managed to stay in touch.

Books by this Author



Orchards on the Steppes by William Ridinger

From the Foreword:

“While some of the experiences of my father can be found in archival documents... much of my information was obtained by personal interviews with him and his immediate relatives... There can be no doubt that the interviews and personal encounters I had... have left me with a profound appreciation of the painful decisions and extreme sacrifices undertaken by immigrants from all walks of life...”

In the 19th century, German pioneers transformed the empty Steppe regions of Southern Ukraine into prosperous farmlands, only to become victims of the Stalin repressions of the 1930's. The German invasion of World War II gave them new hope, which was shattered when the Red Army forced them out of their village and set them on a continental journey amongst the millions of post-war refugees. Based on the author's own family history and first-hand accounts of the survivors.