

## GOT PLATES?

We've published some excerpts from the diaries of Richard "Dick" Roesiger, the man who discovered Lake Roesiger and after whom the lake was named when the area was officially surveyed. The exploits of this hardy homesteader started locally in the late 1880s, but he was a young German immigrant who had come to America for the opportunities it represented. Skipping forward over 110 years, his grand-niece Monika Teuscher, herself a German living in Switzerland, had always been fascinated by his adventuresome spirit and found the opportunity to collaborate with Elsie Sorgenfrei (a Lake Roesiger resident) in the preservation of Dick's diaries. Monika traveled to the States to visit the area in which her granduncle pursued his great adventure, and ultimately published a hard-cover book covering Dick's life, based on the details from hundreds of hand-written pages. Surprisingly, Dick wrote his innermost thoughts and details of his family life in English! His spelling and grammar were extraordinary, though he had no formal schooling in the States . . . and Monika's challenge included translating all of those thoughts into German for her book!

This year, Monika is working with an American in Germany to translate the entire book into English for Roesiger fans in the US. With luck, she'll visit our community in early 2017 for a book-signing at the Granite Falls Museum.

Dick's literacy and intelligence led to him being the official patriotic speech-maker at the first July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration at Lake Roesiger in 1891, and quite by coincidence, here's a letter from Monika, sent on Independence Day exactly 122 years later!

4 July 2013

### **Hand-painted china plates made by Caroline Roesiger-Hübner**

Dear Mr. Cruger

In 2012 a lovely lady from California, Jennifer Sims, contacted me via my Roesiger website: [www.webhost02.ch/Richard\\_Roesiger](http://www.webhost02.ch/Richard_Roesiger) . She was searching for descendants or relatives of Richard Roesiger as she wanted to donate some hand-painted china plates, made by Richard Roesiger's wife Caroline, to that person.

After some extended correspondence, she sent the plates to my address in Switzerland. In June 2013 I brought them over to the museum in Ortrand, Germany, Richard Roesiger's home town. In the past, I have donated some other Roesiger items to the same museum. They honor and appreciate the collection very much.

Some years ago, the town of Ortrand has given Richard Roesiger's name to a public place with the flag of the State of Washington in the middle. Moreover, the authorities have placed a memory plate at his birth house. In 2012, the town celebrated Richard Roesiger's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday with a special exposition about him. He would have been so proud about all that!

Please read Jennifer Sims' e-mail of July 2, 2013 concerning the china plates in which she allows us to talk to you about the plates. You may publish her letter, if you wish:

I like Jennifer's idea that other owners of Caroline Roesiger's plates may want to donate them to the Granite Falls Historical Society.

**Ortrand will celebrate its 775<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November this year.** The historian of the town is very happy to introduce the plates to the public at that occasion.

Kind regards

Monika Teuscher

**SHOULD THERE BE ANY READERS WHO KNOW OF A CAROLINE ROESIGER PLATE,  
THE GRANITE FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY WOULD BE PROUD TO DISPLAY IT!**

