

## Roesiger Diaries – Part 3

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 back into German for her book!

Upon seeing the articles published here recently, Monika and her close friend Gisela Dirac-Wahrenburg emailed me, providing additional information on the Roesiger saga. Before we continue the story of Dick Roesiger and his life as a family man in our community, let's take a brief detour through a delightful story of how Dick's wife helped to beautify the lives of many and serve as an additional source of pride in Dick's hometown of Ortrand, Germany. (Remember, Dick started a Post Office near Lake Roesiger, with the official name of "Ortrand, WA"). 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. Quite by coincidence, here's the letter from Monika and Gisela, 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

The email from Jennifer Sims to Monika and Gisela reflects the same pride in the legacy of Dick Roesiger and the commitment they have for preserving pioneering history:

[Dear Monika and Gisela,](#)

Please feel free to mention the plates and their donation to the museum in Ortrand. The plates were purchased by my aunt and uncle, **Lydia and Kenneth Hensman**, during the period of time that they owned a cabin at Lake Roesiger. After my uncle passed away, my aunt gave the plates to my sister and me. When my sister passed away I once again ended up with all seven plates.

Just as my aunt desired to find homes for some of her many belongings when she got older, I also feel the need to whittle down a lifetime of possessions. I felt the plates deserved to find a home where they would continue to be appreciated for their origin and beauty. The plates were mine to donate as I saw fit and finding Monika was the perfect solution. I know that my aunt would be honored to know that the plates remain as a set where they are safe and enjoyed.

I would imagine that there are others who bought Mrs. Roesiger's lovely work. They or their descendants might still live in that area. Perhaps if one of them reads about the plates that went to Ortrand, they will donate theirs to the Granite Falls Historical Society so they can also have some of Mrs. Roesiger's work. The plates that once belonged to my aunt now belong to Ortrand and there can be no other claim.

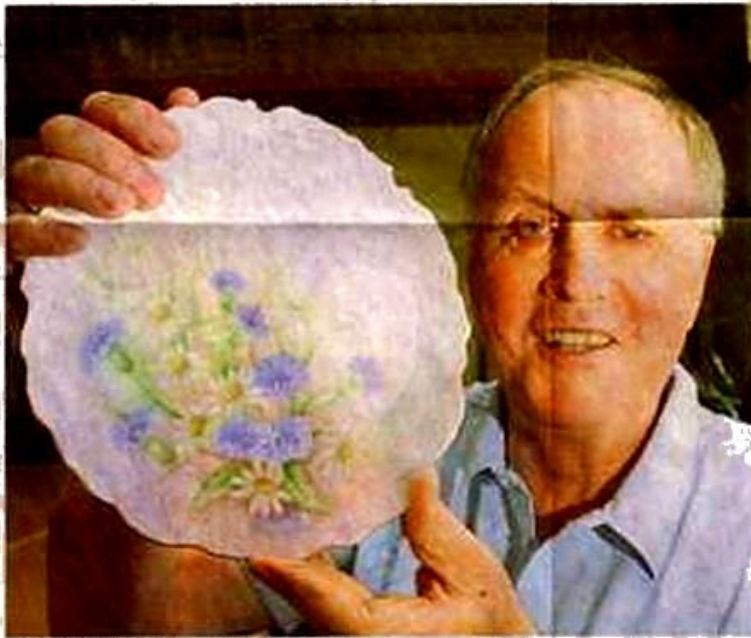
Please do keep in touch. I value both your and Monika's friendship and enjoying hearing from you both.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer

Should there be any local readers out there who know of a Caroline Roesiger plate, the Granite Falls Historical Society would be proud to display it!



# Amerika fürs Museum in Ortrand



Stadtchronist Reinhard Kifro zeigt einen der handbemalten und mit „Roesiger“ sig-

rausgefunden. Und in Ortrand gibt es ein öffentliches Museum, in dem die Porzellantelle gezeigt werden können: das Stadtgeschichts- und Schradenmuseum.

„Natürlich werden die Teller dort einen gebührenden Platz finden“, ist sich Reinhard Kifro vom Heimatverein, der das Museum in der Bahnhofstraße unterhält, sicher. Doch da die Stadt Ortrand in diesem Jahr ihr 775-jähriges Bestehen feiert, gibt es einen besonderen Anlass, die Teller der Öffentlichkeit vorzustellen: Zum alljährlichen Tag der Stadtgeschichte am 26. November im Rathaus. „Diesmal geht es um die 775-Jahrfeier, ein neues Geschichtsmuseum soll zu dem Anlass im neuen Vereinshaus an der Kirche eröffnet werden“, so der Rathausmitarbeiter.

### Clicks aus 19 Ländern

Mit Rösiger ist auch Ortrand immer bekannter geworden. „Mein Buch habe ich auch schon nach Amerika verschickt, auf meiner Homepage habe ich Clicks aus 19 Ländern registriert“, so die Schweizer Autorin. In vielen großen Universitäts-Bibliotheken sei Rösigers Lebensgeschichte als authentisches Sachbuch zu lesen.