

Grove City, MN 56243  
March 16, 2006

Governor Brian A. Schweitzer  
Office of Governor  
Montana State Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Governor Schweitzer,

I am a granddaughter of Fredrick Rodewald who was convicted & put in prison in 1918 - 1919 with 77 others for saying something against the U.S. Government, and that some of them were even set up so they would talk about their homeland, Germany, or for something not good about the U. S. Government or the war with Germany.

We were contacted by Clem Works, Director of Graduate Studies, School of Journalism Missoula, MT. in regards to pardoning these 78 people which will be presented to you this spring.

If there was a law like that today, I think all the people in the U.S. would be put in prison for what they are saying about the war in Iraq, etc. I don't hear any good words about this so called war.

My mother was only 12 years old when she and her 6 brothers and sisters had to work very hard to help their mother keep up the family farm while their dad was in prison. Also had to have this about their dad being in prison for not doing anything physically wrong weighing heavily on their heart. My mother did tell me about this before she died in 1994. She said it was a family secret and no one should know about it. I have also keep it a secret and was very surprised when my cousin, Phyllis Reno, came to me and told me that Calm Works had contacted her. Phyllis's mother was one of the younger of my mother's sisters and was too young to realize what was going on with her dad. Phyllis's mother died when she was only 13 years old so she also was too young to be told that, too, and being a family secret no one ever talked about it.

The Rodewald family moved back to Minnesota soon as Fred got out of prison. My grandfather was a kind, loving and gentle man. He was a very hard worker. I know him well as he only farmed 10 miles from the farm where I grew up.

I understand that pardon petitions will soon be submitted by the Montana Sediton Project headed up my Clem Works, to you for signing. I would like to see this pardon signed for my grandfather Fred Rodewald and the 77 other people who were put in jail.

I hope you have it in your hear to sign this pardon so that all the heart aches this law has caused these 78 people and their families will hopefully be able to heal. I only wish my grandfather, my mother and the rest of the families knew about this pardon.

Hopefully this will be a thing we will be able to witness this spring.

Sincerely your,



Alvina Erickson  
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