Rebecca Dodds was named after Rebecca Nurse, an accused and convicted witch at the witchcraft trials at Salem, Mass., Rebecca discovered her fascination with History at an early age. Her Great Uncle, Dean of Students at Ripon College, Wisconsin, and her Massachusetts family history also influenced her interest in the subject. Upon graduation, her goal is to petition the Salem Athenaeum for employment so that she may crawl around in the village archives. While raising three children Rebecca both goes to school and works full time. Her interests are in reading historical biographies, restoring her older home on North Anthony, and expanding her ever-growing library.

**Abstract**

Just recently considered the first genocide of the 20th century, the Ova Herero and Namaqua genocide occurred between 1904 and 1909 during Germany’s Second Reich. After launching attacks against German colonial settlers, attempting to reclaim their homeland, the Ova Herero were pushed into the dry Kalahari Desert by German military general, Adrian Dietrich Lothar von Trotha, where hundreds of thousands of natives perished. After German promises of pardon, the Herero were misled back under German control, and forced into slave labor and concentration camps on Shark Island. Forced to work until death by exhaustion and starvation, the Herero and Nama population was monumentally devastated. This genocide supplies some distinct and recognizable impacts and possible inspiration and influence into the concept of the ‘Final Solution’ and exploited extinction of the Jews during the Shoah. Although on a different scale, the Holocaust that took place during the Second World War was not Germany’s first genocide, and the Nazi’s Konzentrationslage, or concentration camps of Auschwitz and Dachau were not Germany’s first death camps. The theory of Lebensraum, or living space first theorized by Friedrich Ratzel, would have a profound consequence on the feelings of ‘race and space’ when it came to colonization and expansion in both Southwest Africa and later Nazism. Military strategies, propaganda and ideas and methods supply continuity when comparing the Herero genocide with the Holocaust. Although there have recently been disagreements disputing the connections between the colonial genocide in Southwest Africa and the Jewish Holocaust, there are well-defended similarities that cannot be disregarded. Many of the strategies used in German Southwest Africa were transferred and adopted for use in the Shoah. The study of the extermination of the Herero provides considerable and notable evidence to the commonalities of the eventual annihilation of World War II Jewry. Although “genocide takes as its starting point the Holocaust,” this liquidation of the Herero can be argued as being a precursor the Third Reich’s Imperialism and genocide.