



Chronicle Unserer Leute

Volume 23, Issue 5

September/October 2002

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia is an international organization dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and the dissemination of information related to the history, cultural heritage, and genealogy of Germanic settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants.

The *Chronicle Unserer Leute* (Chronicle of Our People) is published bi-monthly by the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR

Oregon Chapter website:
ahsgr.org/orportla.html

Germans from Russia in Portland website:
germans-russia-pdx.com

President's Message



Jacob Kanzler

A distinct benefit of the President's post has been the communications from other chapters of AHSGR and contacts with members from Canada and the United States.

Serving as a Foundation Trustee was very enlightening as to the abilities demonstrated by these volunteers who received no remuneration.

Representatives from the banking and financial community, corporate executives, and a Washington D.C. lobbyist were adept at guiding discussions to positive conclusions.

The men and women serving had business and accounting backgrounds which made them suited for the positions they assumed.

(Continued on page 7)

Read about Judge Kanzler on page 2

Inside this issue:

Judge Jacob Kanzler 2

Koch's Kolumn 3

Research Focus 5

Treasures 8

Sign-up a New Member 11

Calendar of Events 12

Oregon Chapter Information 13

Upcoming Events

Attend the Deutschesfest in Odessa, WA September 20-22. See page 4 for more information about this German Russia festival.

Share your old photos and artifacts at our Sunday, September 15th meeting. We hope to see you there!

Plan to attend the German Sausage Dinner at Rivercrest Community Church on September 29th.

The Rivercrest Church will have a reunion of the German Russian churches on November 3, 2002. Check for more information in the next newsletter.

The Honorable Judge Jacob Kanzler - A Notable Portlander

Jacob Kanzler was one of the first prominent German Russians in Portland. Kanzler's family was from Kolb, Russia.

Jacob Kanzler was born in Franklin county, Nebraska, October 23, 1879, and is a son of Henry M. and Mary Elizabeth (Koch) Kanzler, who are now residents of Kearney, Nebraska, where the father has been successfully engaged in the retail lumber business for the past forty-five years. Jacob Kanzler attended the grammar and high schools in Kearney and in the year 1900 entered the University of Nebraska, where he took a general academic course. In 1905 he entered Columbia University, New York city, where he studied law. Upon the completion of his law course he came to Portland, and in June, 1909, was admitted to the bar of Oregon. He thereupon engaged in the practice of his profession and gained recognition as a dependable attorney and has since held many offices of public trust and confidence.

He subsequently revisited Kearney, Nebraska, and was married to Miss Grace Julia Hamer of that city, daughter of Justice and Mrs. Frances G. Hamer (Mr. Hamer being a member of the supreme court of Nebraska), returning to Portland with his bride, where he has since resided. Two daughters have been born to the Kanzlers: Jane Hamer, a graduate of Washington high school, and Frances Hamer, who is attending the same school.

Jacob Kanzler is a republican; a member of the Oregon and Multnomah Bar Associations; Willamette Lodge, No. 2, A. F. & A. M.; Oregon Consistory, No. 1, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite; Al Kader Temple of the Mystic Shrine; I. O. O. F.; Knights of Pythias and Loyal Order of Moose. He is active in the American Legion, and is a prominent member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Shortly after the outbreak of the World war he felt the need of and became active in assisting to mould public opinion in behalf of military preparedness in this country, and, in the fall of 1916 he became secretary for Oregon of the National Military Training Camps Association, which was later instrumental in bringing about the establishment of the Reserve Officers' Training Camps. He attended the first of such camps, organized at the Presidio of San Francisco, and, in August, 1917, was commissioned a captain of infantry. He was assigned to the 361st Infantry Regiment (91st Division) at Camp Lewis, Washington, and went overseas with his regiment, where he saw service in France and Belgium, participating in the St. Mihiel drive, the Meuse-Argonne offensive, and the Lys-Scheldt drive. At the close of the war he returned to Portland and was honorably discharged. In July, 1919, he was commissioned a major of infantry in the Officers Reserve Corps of the United States Army, and on December 1, 1923, was commissioned a lieutenant colonel. He was one of the founders of the Reserve Officers' Association of Oregon and was for two years its president.

In 1919, shortly after his return from overseas, Governor Ben W. Olcott appointed Jacob Kanzler as the first judge of the newly created court of domestic relations of Multnomah county. He organized this court along such lines as would best serve the needs of juvenile and parental offenders and established the court's practice and procedure. After presiding over this court for seven years, having during this time been elected to the office by the vote of the people, he resigned to become a vice president of the Northwestern National Bank, serving in that capacity until the bank retired from business in 1927. He was later selected by Governor Isaac M. Patterson for the appoint-

ment of circuit judge of department Number 1, fourth judicial district at Portland, to succeed Judge George Rossman, who had been appointed a justice of the supreme court of Oregon. In 1928 Judge Kanzler's name appeared on the ballot as a candidate for the office to which he had been appointed and was nominated at the primaries to succeed himself for a period of six years.

Jacob Kanzler has been deeply interested in public and civic work throughout his many years residence in Portland. In 1914 he became president of the Progressive Business Men's Club, taking an active part in the establishment of Portland's present public market, and for which he was given much credit. He served for six years as a director of the Waverly Baby Home and in 1915 was a director of the Portland Rose Festival. During that same year he served on the committee which built the trail from Multnomah Falls to the summit of Larch Mountain. Through this latter work he became interested in the recreational possibilities of the Columbia river gorge and initiated and executed the movement through which the federal government created Columbia Gorge Park as a public recreation grounds, consisting of fourteen thousand acres of land, extending for some twenty-three miles along the Columbia River highway and of which Eagle creek is the approximate center. Continuing his contact with governmental agencies and acquaintances he was influential in obtaining an appropriation from the United States forest service for a survey of the Mt. Hood Loop road. He also drafted the application for federal aid for this highway, it being the first application of its kind to reach Washington from any part of the United States under the Federal Aid Road Act.

Jacob Kanzler took an active part in organizing the Portland Opera Association and the Portland Junior Symphony Orchestra Association. For many years he has been a member of the executive boards of both organizations. He is president of the Portland Fest Chor.

He is a director of the Portland Americanization Council; treasurer of the Portland Social Turnverein; chairman of the child welfare committee of the American Legion for the department of Oregon and of a similar committee of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, A. F. and A. M. In 1925 he was general chairman of the International Christian Endeavor convention held in Portland, and in 1927 acted in the same capacity for the convention of the International Fire Chiefs Association. He is a past president of the Oregon Christian Endeavor Union and is a member of Westminster Presbyterian church, Portland.

As judge of the circuit court of Multnomah county, Jacob Kanzler is held in high esteem by the general public as well as the legal profession, and his enviable record as lawyer, military officer and overseas veteran, banker, jurist and public-spirited citizen has gained for him the confidence and deep respect of the people of his city and state.

Source: "History of the Columbia River Valley - From The Dalles to the Sea - Volume III", published in 1928 by The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago.

Koch's Kolumn by Dr. Raymond P. Koch

The year is rapidly passing....as each tends to do for us senior citizens.

Rather than bemoan the passage of time, I am optimistic on our group's future. I have been contacted by relatives and friends in their third and fourth decades who are curious and desirous of becoming knowledgeable on the subject of their heritage.

Our daughter is volunteering in the Beaverton school district and met a young lady who mentioned her German heritage on occasion. Lo and behold this young lady, Sheri Twigg, is a descendant of Germans from Russia.

What is unique is that Sheri is a granddaughter of Pastor Hergert. Her parents, Solly and Rosalie, bought the home I grew up in on N.E. Roselawn Street, in Portland.

Sheri's brothers were gifted athletes at Jefferson High, as were her uncles and father before them. More importantly, the entire family are solid citizens. I watched an older brother of hers compete in a state all-star game locally, followed his athletic career via the newspapers, and then had occasion to observe his impartiality when he was officiating a basketball contest between The Dalles and Gresham at Gresham where we usually got "homered".

I would bet he is probably a great teacher, also. Pastor Hergert would be proud of him and his siblings.

We all have relatives and friends we can invite to our meetings to let them see what we have discovered and is available. Ruth and Chuck Williams, Arla Elverud, Joanne Krieger and the other genealogy committee members can help them find what they need or guide them in their research.

Now that we have the invaluable alliance with the Slavic Studies Department at Kansas State University, we will be able to access more archives before the poorly stored records in Russia deteriorate to useless fragments.

Professor Joseph Height astounded me years ago with the material in his books on the Black Sea area. His

source material still exists in Germany and Russia. Sadly, the Russian government is unable to maintain their archives adequately to protect the contents.

I am so grateful my grandson Adam, had a great-uncle who delved into the Leibbrandt history. Ruben Leibbrandt headed the chemistry department at the local aluminum plant after my friend, Irv Wagenhoffer (a Black Sea GR) retired.

Ruben was able to contact kinsmen in Germany and was aided by the fact that Dr. George Leibbrandt, a native GR, returned as an emissary and research specialist of the German occupation Army, as did Professor Karl Stumpf. Their acquisitions still exist in German archives and are available for research.

What Doris Evans has done for the Frank and Frank Chutor descendants is mind-boggling. (see page 5)

The late Elaine Frank Davidson's cousin, Michael Frank is doing the same for the village of Kautz. He's hoping to have it well along before the Yakima convention on June 15-22, 2003.

Let's hope others will step up for their areas and villages. Time marches on!

The drive to know won't be as strong in our grandchildren and their descendants, but for those who will have a thirst for knowledge we owe them our help. Frankly, we won't be here to help.

Items I gleaned forty years ago from friends and relatives, now long gone, were invaluable in making connections when more material surfaced.

The more I learn of our ancestors' lives, the more I note how the depression years were difficult for many, but did they match the tribulations our forebears experienced in Germany and Russia?

In a lighter vein, I would like to observe that many of our kinsmen are having a positive impact in Germany. Just last year, Ina and Dale Glasgow hosted a gathering

(Continued on page 4)

Koch's Kolumn

(Continued from page 3)

at the Columbia Gorge Hotel in Hood River for cousins from Germany, both established veterinarians. A Bessarabian friend of mine, Walter Lutz, accompanied us and helped in the translating. The guests teenage children were also helpful as they had taken English courses in school. I was very impressed by this family.

Lois Klaus brought two relatives from Germany through The Dalles enroute to Ritzville. We shared lunch and a wonderful visit in a restaurant on the Columbia River and next to The Dalles Dam.

As in all cases, they have adopted the dress codes of their host country and could pass as handsome natives in any western nation.

As Harri and Zina Klein of Berlin have stated: They all seem happy and thankful for their future prospects. As all of us should be.....

Raymond P. Koch

32nd Annual Deutschesfest in Odessa

Deutschesfest is a celebration of German-Russian ethnic heritage, similar to Oktoberfest, but held the third full weekend of September. The festival is organized by the descendants of German Russians who settled in Odessa, Washington at the beginning of the 20th Century. About 80 percent of Odessa's inhabitants are of German Russian descent. These industrious immigrants transformed the then desolate Odessa area into one of the world's richest grain growing areas.

But hard work was not all they knew how to do. These people also had an appreciation for worldly delights—good food and drink, music, and dancing. These customs have been handed down through the generations to give Odessa a very special ambiance which abounds at Deutschesfest. In German its called *Gemütlichkeit*—a pleasant spirit of camaraderie and good times.

This years festival will be held on September 20-22.

Contact the Odessa Chamber of Commerce at (509) 982-0049 for more information.

Queries

Are you searching for lost branches of your family? Do you have a question you would like answered? Do you have information to share?

Send your queries and information to the newsletter editor we will publish it in an upcoming newsletter.

Please let us know if you have any success!

Steve Schreiber
AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter Editor
6806 SE 35th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202 schreibpdx@earthlink.net

I am in possession of a photocopy of a document entitled "List or Manifest of Alien Passengers for the Commissioner of Immigration" for the SS Belgenland sailing from Liverpool on 16 May 1903 arriving at the Port of Philadelphia 30 May 1903. This list is for steerage passengers.

Christian Pauli
 Peter and Catrina Jager
 Conrad and Elisabeth Derr + 6 children
 Adam and Margaretha Dorr + 2 children
 John and Mary Yost + 5 children
 Johannes and Christine Schwartz + 4 children

Nearly all are listed as going to live with a relative, Henry Yost, who lived on Mallory Avenue N 763, Portland, Oregon. Peter Jager was going to his brother Johannes in Portland.

One person is listed as going to brother Henry Yost - father Conrad Yost.

Could somebody fill me in on the Henry Yost family or Conrad Yost? Thanks,

Bob Beall
513 NE Birchwood Road
Hillsboro, OR 97124-3374
503-648-3378
RbtCBeall@aol.com

Oregon Chapter Focuses on Research

German descendants of three Russian villages can now look to the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR has a hub of family history and genealogical research. Comprehensive village databases and research facilities either are or will be available for the villages of Frank, Kautz (Kauz), and Norka.

A brief summary of the information available for each village is described in this newsletter.

The chapter welcomes other family, village, or regional coordinators interested in creating comprehensive databases or collection centers for their realm of research to make their need and desires known to the chapter. The Oregon Chapter extends a special invitation to all German Russian groups to take part in this effort. Please let us know your area of expertise and how we can help you meet your goals and objectives.

Kautz Village Research

We have excellent news for descendants of the village of Kautz!

For many years Elaine Frank Davidson and her husband devoted their lives and resources to the commissioning of numerous family charts for Kautz by Dr. Igor Pleve, with a goal of building a comprehensive genealogical and historical database. Sadly, Elaine and her husband passed away several years ago before their goal was realized.

However, we have learned their nephew, D. Michael Frank, has continued their work and is completing the first phase of the database.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Kautz database should contact:

Mr. D. Michael Frank
Village Coordinator for Kautz
 2201 NE 156th Avenue
 Vancouver, WA 98684
 (360) 256-5496
 frankdm@attbi.net

Norka Charts Available!

Joanne Krieger has served as the Research Coordinator for the village of Norka, Russia for many years. Joanne serves as the representative for many people who commissioned charts from Dr. Igor Pleve and has collected over 75 family charts.

For more information on these charts contact:

Joanne Krieger
3215 NE 135th Avenue
Portland, OR 97230
(503) 252-6623

Charts available include:

Albert, Alt, Bauer, Bechtold, Biehn, Blum, Brehm, Brun, Burbach, Deines, Dick, Dinges, Doring, Dorr, Eusel, Feuerstein, Fink, Fuchs, Fruauf, Gerlach, Gibelhaus, Glanz, Green, Hamburger, Heinrich, Helzer, Hohnstein, Holzer to 1906, Jacoby, Jager, Jost, Keiser, Klaus, Knippel, Kohler, Krieger, Krieger to 1906, Lehl, Lehr, Lissman, Lofink, Loos, Maul, Miller, Nolde, Pauly, Pfenning, Reich, Reispich, Repp, Reuscher, Sauer, Shafer, Scheidemann, Schilling, Schleicher, Schleuning, Schlitt, Schmer, Schneider, Schnell, Schreiber, Schwarz, Schwindt, Sinner, Spady, Storkel, Traudt, Traudt to 1906, Truber, Wacker, Weber, Weidenkellar, Weigandt, Weitzel, Weitzel to 1906.

Charts on order:

Aschenbrenner, Burbach to 1906, Green to 1906, Jost to 1906, Kleer, Kulthau, Nagel, Pauly to 1906, Ross, Schmer to 1906, Schwarz to 1906, Tilleman (Dillman)

Norka Database - A Work in Progress

Several people are working to create a database for Norka similar to the one created by Doris Evans and others for the village of Frank.

A central figure in compiling the Norka database is Judy Curtis. If you would like to be involved in assisting with the database or have commissioned a chart you would like to contribute please contact:

Judy Curtis
9026 S. Dateland Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85284
(480) 756-6022
FAX (480) 756-6633
TNJCURTIS@aol.com

FRANK VILLAGE FAMILY GENEALOGICAL REGISTERS AVAILABLE!

Your Oregon Chapter of AHSGR has a most prized possession: the comprehensive data base for the village of Frank, Russia as compiled by Doris Evans over 10+ years. The database contains over 130,000 names and the information in over 65 family charts prepared by Dr. Igor Pleve in addition to numerous census publications, church records, family histories and other sources.

Doris Evans, Frank Village Coordinator, has compiled Genealogical Registers for a select number of family lines from Frank. Some Registers list over 10,000 descendants of the original family ancestor who first settled in Frank in the 1760s.

The Oregon Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans From Russia is printing and making available a limited number of family histories for Frank descendants at a price of \$100.00 per book. Some family books come in two volumes and cost \$135.00. Postage and handling is \$6.00 per book. A list of available books is shown at the bottom of this page.

In addition, Doris has indicated she will try to print personal ancestry or Ahnentafel charts, wall charts, and German family histories as her time and energies permit. Contact Ed Wagner for more information.

For family registers, please make checks payable to: "AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER"
 Mail to: Ed Wagner 2720 S.W. Montgomery Drive Portland, OR 97201,
 Phone inquires: (503) 228-0007 FAX: (503) 228-1016

Proceeds will be used to obtain additional historical documentation for the village of Frank and related communities.

ORDER FORM:

Family Registers Requested:	Number	Cost
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Shipping and Handling		_____
Total Enclosed:		_____

Send my order to:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____
 FAX: _____

AMEN, BAUER, BASTROM, BATT, BERNHARDT, BORGES, ECKHARDT, FAHRENBRUCH, GETTMAN, GRUENWALD, GUENTHER, HARTUNG, HOCK, HOFF, HOFFMAN, HOFFERBER, KISSLER, KLEIN, LEB-SOCK, LEONHARDT, PISTER, SCHAFFER, SCHOESSLER, SELL, TRUPP, WAGNER, WILLMAN, ZEILER, ZITZ-MANN.

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

We need a national AHSGR board member representing Oregon. Contact me, Ed Wagner or Steve Schreiber if interested. Surely, we have someone who can afford the three annual meetings and is blessed with good judgment.

You will make some life-long friends and be in the inner circle on many important decisions in the future.

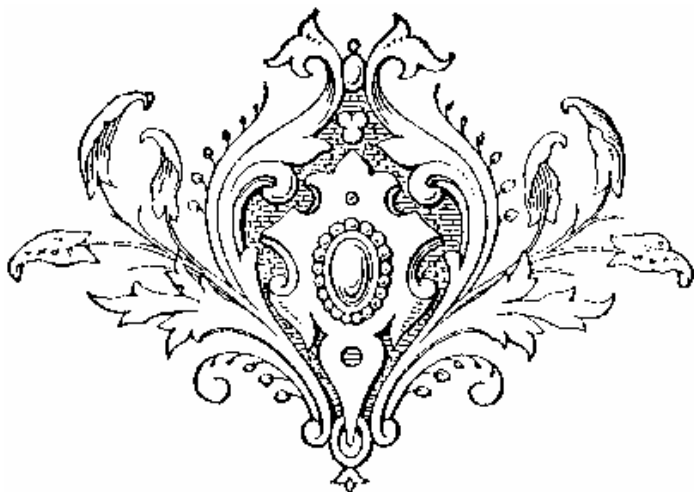
It is time for a membership drive. I hope you have invited friends and relatives to our September 15, 2002 meeting which has the theme "Remembering the Past."

Thanks to Miriam Wolfe and others, I have some material for an article on items of interest from our past. Many thanks.

We received many calls regarding our local fires in The Dalles. Thanks for your concern. So far we have dodged the problem. We had six fires on the fringe of town, and all we can do is cross our fingers. The dry weather, the strong winds, the fuel available to burn, and the careless people make everyone in Oregon and the Northwest vulnerable. Pray for Rain !!!

Auf Wiedersehen,

Dr. Raymond P. Koch
President, Oregon Chapter AHSGR



OUR CHAPTER PICNIC

The Millers hosted a picnic that folks obviously enjoyed. The weather cooperated and there was no need for heavy sweaters or jackets.

When Diane and I arrived a bit after 10:00 a.m. to offer our help in setting up, we found Chuck and Ruth Williams and two energetic grandsons already there and almost finished for the 12:00 noon start of festivities.

Zane, Lela, their daughter, and Andy (the grandson) had been preparing all week (and then some) and, with the help of the Williams' clan, were prepared for the early arrivals.

Among the special things we enjoyed were Charles Saranto and Sherri Reiswig from the Blue Mountain Chapter (he is also the President of the Council of N.W. Chapters) who brought everyone attending a 5# sack of Walla Walla Sweet Onions. They also brought a 35# watermelon. They drove from their home in Touchet, WA.

Ella Reese from the Rainier Chapter attended; she lives in Puyallup, WA.. She brightened the atmosphere with her three neat lady friends, her favorite grandson (their driver), and her usual witty presence. They were a fun group and I got to hug Ella !

Bob and Bonnie Beall saw two of his cousins after a hiatus of sixty years. The father of his cousin had built the little house on the picnic site.

Bruno Reule won the beautiful king size quilt that Lela, Alice Summers and other chapter members had made. Congratulations to the Reules. This winter he'll have Isolde and the quilt to help him forget the freezing box car enroute to Siberia in 1945

Ruben Boxberger brought his show car, a beautifully restored and maintained 1941 Chevrolet that was real "eye candy".

The food was great but I felt the strong point was the visiting and participation. We had a good crowd, a friendly group, and a happy bunch.

Zane had set up the granary for a video presentation of

(Continued on page 14)

"TREASURES IN MY OWN HOME," by Juliana Smith

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, my family and I have been house hunting and I've begun the huge task of packing up all of our earthly possessions. Ack!!! Where did we get all this stuff?

As I go through our belongings, I am besieged with memories and nostalgia and it's struck me that I should be doing a lot more to preserve our "family history in the making." So in today's "Family History Compass," I'd like to share some of the thoughts I've had while preparing for "the big move."

WHAT TO KEEP AND WHAT TO PITCH

I've always been a packrat and these tendencies are in direct conflict with the no-nonsense part of me that wants to make this move as efficient as possible. I am facing a constant dilemma with Mrs. No-Nonsense telling Mrs. Packrat, "When in doubt, throw it out." Of course, Mrs. Packrat responds with, "We can't throw this out! It was Maddy's homework assignment from Kindergarten!"

So my biggest challenge has been to figure out where to draw the line when it comes to what to save and what to pitch. The genealogist in me wants to save every note my daughter ever wrote to me, every drawing, every homework assignment, every piece of clothing, etc. But I have to be practical and come to terms with the fact that she has sixteen more years of school ahead and saving every assignment is just not possible. So with the exception of some dated periodic assignments that show her progress, much of the pre-school and kindergarten stuff is going to have to go. (Mrs. Packrat is sobbing uncontrollably at the news, but even she has to admit that the three boxes of papers is just a bit too much.)

I have saved a lot of her baby things and have sorted the items I want to keep into a separate box. I've started a "Family Preservation To-do List" (on the computer so it won't get lost in the move), and added my first entry--a note to "sew labels on baby clothes and blankets." In determining the best method to store them, I did some research, both in the Ancestry.com Library and on other sites I found on the Internet. From my research, it's obvious that the boxes I currently have them in may not be good for the fabrics, so I've also added a note to also invest in some archival boxes for storage.

SPECIAL GIFTS AND HEIRLOOMS

Other treasures I had to pack were those that I had in an antique china cabinet that a friend gave me as a wedding present. It's a wonderful old cabinet with a glass door, four shelves of space that are filled with gifts from family and friends, heirlooms from my grandparents and great-grandparents, and family souvenirs of special events and trips. As I went through packing, my daughter asked me about each item, and while I didn't have any trouble telling her where these special items came from, down the road it may not be so easy. So, the next thing on my list is to borrow Mom's digital camera and photograph each item. I plan to insert each photo into a document containing a description and the origins of the piece, as well as any family story that goes with it. The documents can be saved on my computer, backed up on CD-ROM,

and also printed out on paper. (Time to shop for another notebook!)

I also have some heirloom jewelry and small knickknacks that belonged to grandparents from both sides of our family in a curio box on the wall. Again, these needed to be labeled. I made a "map" of the box as I unpacked it, numbering the squares and included a description of each piece at the bottom with its corresponding number. Not only will this help me put everything back in its place when we move, but the map will serve as a record of each item and the source.

WALL DECORATIONS

Throughout my house, I have framed prints of paintings that I like, embroidered pieces from my family and friends, plaques with special sayings, and in our room, a framed photo from our wedding day. These items also needed to be labeled as many of them were gifts and have special meaning and value to me. In some rooms, I even have greeting cards from family framed and hanging up.

The framed greeting cards already have their sources contained within, but the other items needed to be labeled. For these, I incorporated a Quick Tip that we ran a while ago regarding framing items. It suggested that, "a pocket be put on the back to insert any information pertaining to the article being framed."

It was relatively simple to add a pocket to the paper on the back of most wall hangings and insert the information inside and I didn't even have to put that one on my "to-do later" list!

MEMORIES

Throughout this house in which we've raised our daughter for the past six years, I am confronted with memories that I want to preserve for her. While I have photographs and video, they don't always capture as much as I'd like. They're typically taken mainly on special occasions and just don't really capture our day-to-day life.

So at the top of my list is to jot down some notes in every spare moment about what life is and was like for us in this house. The memories of her pulling up her "desk" next to mine to "work" with me, a house full of neighbors and the neighborhood children, the sounds of the birds in the big pine tree in the front yard, and our special walks to and from Kindergarten where each street got its own special name--these are all treasures from this home that I want to carry with us to the next chapter in our lives. Now is the time to preserve them.

Juliana Smith is the editor of the "Ancestry Daily News" and author of "The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book."

Volga Relief Society 81st Anniversary Recognized at Rivercrest

Sunday, August 11, 2002 was recognized by Rivercrest Community Church, during the regular scheduled Sunday service, as a significant date in the history of the church and its founding congregation. Rivercrest Community Church was built as a relocation effort by the Zion Congregational Church which was then located at NE 9th and Fremont Streets in Portland.

The following excerpt is taken from "A History of the Volga Relief Society" by Emma Schwabenland Haynes, published by AHSGR in 1982. A limited number of these books will be available at our regularly scheduled meeting:

On August 11, 1921, there was organized in the Zion Congregational Church of Portland, Oregon, a society composed of German people who had emigrated to the United States from Russia. Their purpose in meeting was to raise funds for relatives along the Volga River, who at that time were suffering from one of the most disastrous famines in European history. At this meeting Mr. John W. Miller was chosen president and Mr. George Repp, secretary. Two weeks later, the society voted that Mr. Repp was to be its personal representative in Russia, working under the supervision of the American Relief Administration.

At the same time that this organization came into existence, similar gatherings were held by Volga Germans living in Fresno, California, and in Lincoln, Nebraska. Before very long money was contributed by communities in Colorado, Washington, Montana, Oklahoma, Illinois, Kansas, and many other states in which these people have settled. As a result of their united efforts, more than one million dollars was raised for their unfortunate compatriots in Russia.

The relief work accomplished along the Volga River during the years 1921-1923 has been described by historians as the most outstanding act of charity ever performed by the German-Russian people now living in the United States.

Rivercrest Community Church Goes All Out for AHSGR

Rivercrest Community Church is hosting special events this fall to showcase its beautiful facility and its warm welcome to the Germans from Russia throughout the greater Portland metropolitan area.

Our chapter is blessed to have such an excellent facility and such a warm home for our activities and new genealogy center. Every member and friend of the chapter is urged to volunteer and attend these special activities as well as all regularly scheduled services and programs of the church.

The opportunity exists here again to renew old friendships and camaraderie's (gemütlichkeit) as we join together in making these special functions a big success.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend:

September 28, 2002 Traditional German Sausage Dinner
4:30—7:00 p.m. at Rivercrest Church

November 3, 2002 "Great Homecoming" A special invitation to all Germans from Russia whose families were part of the Brethren, Zion, Ebenezer, Second German, and St. Paul's churches in Portland. All other German Russians living in the Portland area are also invited to attend. Please let your friends and family know about this grand event. Volunteers and support will be needed and much appreciated for these events. Contact one of the board members if you can help out.

Rivercrest is making a commitment to the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR. Let show our appreciation and support to them as we build our sense of community.

Help Wanted!

The Oregon Chapter is seeking an individual to serve as our newsletter editor. Candidates must simply have a desire to work for the good of the chapter and a general knowledge of personal computers. Experience in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, or other similar software is a plus.

The current newsletter editor will provide training to anyone interested in serving the chapter in this capacity.

Please contact Steve Schreiber at 503.774.9753 or schreibpdx@earthlink.net if you have an interest.

The Oregon Chapter of AHSGR Offers Our Published Book Titled

BRUNO

by Bruno Reule, as told to Rev. James Estes

This book has been published by the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR at price of \$20.00. Postage and handling is \$3.50 per book.

Purchase 5 or more books and receive a 10 percent discount (\$18.00 per book) or purchase 25 or more books and receive a 20 percent discount (\$16.00 per book)

Order Form ✂ -----

Please send me ____ copies of Bruno's book. I have enclosed a check payable to "AHSGR Oregon Chapter" and understand that postage and handling is \$3.50 per book.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

New Books From Germany

Author Felicitas Wildanger has written a two volume set titled Heimatlos. Both books (Deutsche Schicksale in Russland and Prinzip Hoffnung) are focused on the life of Maria Kraft who lived in the Volga region and was deported to Turkmenistan in 1941 where she was forced to work in the labor army. Maria survived this experience and now lives in Germany.

The books are written in German and can be ordered from Felicitas Wildanger at the following e-mail address:

Werner.Wildanger@gmx.de

Church Records Translated

Joanne and Willis Krieger are translating the Evangelical Congregational church records for the years 1969 to 1999. This work is a continuation of the Second German Congregational Church records from 1913-1969 which have been translated. The 1913-1969 records are available from Joanne who can be contacted at 3215 N.E. 135th Avenue, Portland, OR 97230, 503-252-6623.

We greatly appreciate the work that Joanne, Willis, Marie Krieger, Bob Beall and others have done to translate most of the German Russian church books for Portland. These books are an important part of our heritage.

AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Form

Memberships fees are for a calendar year that renews each January 1st. Dues shown below include \$10 for an Oregon Chapter membership. The remaining fee is for membership in the AHSGR international organization.

Membership Categories - Annual International and Oregon Chapter Dues

Individual	\$60
Family	\$60
Institutional	\$60
Contributing	\$85
Sustaining	\$110
Int'l Life Member	\$750 (may be paid in 5 annual installments – add \$10 to each installment for Chapter dues)
Int'l Life Member	\$10 (for fully paid International Life Members who pay only Chapter dues)
Special Trial Member	\$10 (Oregon Chapter only - limited to one year)

New Member ____ **Renewal** ____ **Individual** ____ **Family** ____

Membership Year 20_____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

I would like my Oregon Chapter newsletter delivered by e-mail (Adobe Acrobat format) Yes ____ No ____

In order for us to service our membership more effectively, please list all of your German family names and all villages that you believe your ancestors are from.

Ancestral Villages - Please specify for each member _____

Surnames - Please specify for each member _____

There are many opportunities to help build our chapter. Let us know if you can help in any of the areas shown below:

Genealogy Workshops _____	Other _____
Newsletter _____	Publicity _____
Library _____	Ways & Means _____
Programs _____	Reminder Calls for Upcoming Meetings _____
Hospitality _____	Sunshine _____

Please send your membership dues and applications to:
Charles Williams 1830 NE 141st Avenue, Portland, OR 97230-4056
503-252-0902 e-mail: f26ruth@attbi.com

Upcoming Events - *Mark Your Calendars!*

September

3 Sept, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Chapter Board Meeting
15 Sept, Sunday, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Program will feature sharing of artifacts, photos and stories.
18 Sept, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Genealogy Workshop
19-21 Sept, Fri.-Sun., Deutschesfest in Odessa, WA
28 Sept, Saturday, Sausage Dinner at Rivercrest Church

1 Oct, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Chapter Board Meeting
6 Oct - German-American Day
12 Oct, Saturday, Noon to 2:00 p.m. - Chapter meeting and potluck lunch. Program TBA
16 Oct, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Genealogy Workshop

Oktober

November

3 November, Sunday, Reunion of German Russian churches in Portland at Rivercrest Church
5 November, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Chapter Board Meeting
10 November, Sunday, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
20 November, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Genealogy Workshop

3 December, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Chapter Board Meeting
No Genealogy Workshop this month
TBA December, Saturday, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Christmas Program

Dezember

Januar

1 Jan, Neu Jahr Tag
7 Jan Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Chapter Board meeting
12 Jan Sunday, 2:30-4:00 p.m., Guest speaker or special program
15 Jan Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Genealogy Workshop

Feb 4 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Chapter Board Meeting
Feb 8 Saturday, 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Chapter Meeting and Potluck lunch
Feb 19, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Genealogy Workshop

Februar

Your Chapter Officers and Directors

President (Term expires December 2003)

Dr. Ray Koch
2904 Old Dufer Road
The Dalles, OR 97058-4043
541-296-6061
rpdllkoch@gorge.net

Vice President (Term expires December 2003)

Ed Wagner
2720 SW Montgomery
Portland, OR 97201-1633
503-228-0007

Second Vice President (Term expires December 2003)

Steve Schreiber
6806 SE 35th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202-8218
503-774-9753
schreibpdx@earthlink.net

Secretary (Term expires December 2003)

Laurel Anderson
8214 S.W. 2nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97219-4604
laurelabooks@juno.com

Treasurer (Term expires December 2003)

Lois Klaus
111 NE 67th Avenue
Portland, OR 97213-5029
503-232-3065
lkklaus@earthlink.net

Directors (Term expires December 2002)

Alice Summers
6532 SE 81st Ave.
Portland, OR 97206-5659
(503) 775-9929
sewsum4u@webtv.net

Lorraine Miller
13605 NE Clackamas St
Portland, OR 97230-7230
(503) 252-8475

Dr. William Wiest
5009 S.E. 46th Avenue
Portland, OR 97206-5048
wiest@reed.edu

Directors (Term expires December 2003)

Hanna Deines
2008 NE 156th
Portland, OR 97230-8287
503-252-6036

Diane Koch
2904 Old Dufer Road
The Dalles, OR 97058-4043
541-296-6061
rpdllkoch@gorge.net

Erna Markwart
1535 NE 168th Pl.
Portland, OR 97230-6002
(503)254-4454

Meeting Places

Unless otherwise noted, all chapter meetings and genealogy workshops are held at Rivercrest Community Church, 3201 NE 148th, Portland, Oregon.

Board meetings are held at Hanna Deines's home, located at 2008 NE 156th Court, Portland, Oregon. Phone: 503.252.6036.



Rivercrest Community Church

Meeting Directions and Information

Rivercrest Community Church is located between NE Sandy Blvd. and NE Halsey Street on NE 148th. Park in the lower parking lot and follow the directional signs to the meeting rooms.

Oregon Chapter Meetings held on Saturdays are generally two and one-half hours in length and include a potluck lunch. Please bring an entrée, salad, or dessert to share and your own plate and utensils. At the potluck lunches, \$1 for members and \$2 for non-members is requested to help defray the cost of the meeting facilities.

Oregon Chapter Meetings held on Sunday afternoon are generally one and one-half hours in length. Refreshments will be served at the meeting and a donation is requested to help defray meeting facility costs. ***Please note that the Sunday afternoon meetings do not include a potluck lunch.***

Guests are always welcome to any chapter meeting or gene-

**AMERICAN HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM
RUSSIA - OREGON CHAPTER
4616 SE ADAMS
MILWAUKIE, OR 97222**

(Continued from page 7)

"Children of the Steppe, Children of the Prairie" and "A Light in the Darkness". The former was on Public Television earlier and the latter was filmed of survivors of the Gulag.

I met some delightful visitors and saw many beloved, familiar faces such as Marie Krieger, Ruben Boxberger, the Trupps from Sauvies Island, Ella, the Wagners, the Bealls and a host of others.

Mollyann Rimerman even gave me some herbal medicine advice for my arthritis. I'm on my second week of "rutabaga stem" broth and the flavor alone has eased my pain by 50 percent. Who knows what next weeks "pinto bean poultice" will bring?

THANK YOU ALL for making it such good fun !

Your friend,

Ray

Successful Research in Germany

Successful searches for ancestral family roots in Germany have been a work in progress for several years. Over three dozen Volga family lines have been located and researched in Germany back as early as the 1500's.

If you commissioned or have access to your family chart by Dr. Pleve, we may be able to help you with your early family ancestry in 16th or 17th century Germany.

Please contact Ed Wagner at (503) 228-0007 if you are interested in this pursuit.



Norka Film Project

AHSGR International has announced that it plans to restore the 1927 film taken by Henry Wacker in Norka. This film is a rare look at life in Norka and the German colonies in Russia.

If you are interested in this project or have information about this film, please contact Luis Vasquez in Lincoln, NE at lvasq@ahsgr.org or (402) 474-3363.

Volga Relief Society

AHSGR International is working on a project to recognize and remember the work of the Volga Relief Society which assisted many families in Russia during the famine years of the 1920's and 1930's.

Did you know that the Volga Relief Society was founded in Portland as was actually the forerunner of AHSGR?

The Volga Relief Society was the first organization of Germans from Russia in America and was founded August 11, 1921 at the Zion Congregation Church in Portland.

As current members, we can take pride in our ancestors dedication to unite and help our families in Russia in a time of great need.

Let us never forget the great heritage of our ethnic German people from Russia and Eastern Europe!