



Chronicle Unserer Leute

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May/June 2003

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 by-monthly by the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR.

Oregon Chapter website:
ahsgr.org/orportla.html

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President's Message

It is better to give than receive!

How often we have heard the adage and seen it in print. Well, here we go again.

Give us your help as we find Hanna and Diane sometimes finding themselves swamped with the kitchen and table set up chores.

If you are able to come an hour and a half early and help, please contact Ed Wagner or me.

Tables, chairs, speaker system, etc., have been covered by Ed, Roger, Allen, Chuck and myself until recently when I could no longer help adequately.

Again, call us if you can help. Many hands make light work. . . . Corny? Yet it is so true.

With the Ed Wagners, the Millers and the Hurrells being in in Germany and Steve Schreiber being in Asia on business, we decided to forego the May board meeting.

With no guarantee that I'll be completely recovered by then, someone else will be conducting our meeting on Sunday, May 18th.

Many "wise acres" have attributed my need for hip surgery as an addiction to Chubby Checkers'

innovative dance "The Twist" and the coincidental wear and tear.

It's simply not true. The problem arose from a fall off the stage while taking hula lessons at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel at Waikiki Beach.

Two more lessons and I would have earned my grass skirt and lei. Darn it!

See you after my orthopedic engagement.

Oh yes, we have all been subjected to lurid tales of corporate malfeasance by crooked CEO's, board members, and officers.

Our officers have been donating office expenses, stamps, phone calls, etc., and the group has little overhead.

Thanks to ways and means constantly adding to our bank balance, we are solvent. With the additional blessing from the Spady Estate we are in a position to materially further the society's work when the right need arises.

Bring a friend and meet us at the next function.

Your President,

Dr. Raymond P. Koch

Submitted by Steve Schreiber who writes:

Here is an interesting article on the efforts of GRs in Kansas to raise the issue of the famine in Russia in 1933 with the U.S. government. This mostly man made famine killed many GRs (and others) in both the Black Sea and Volga regions during this time period. Although it was one of the largest known famines in world history it is little known to most people in the world.

Germans In Kansas Raise 1933 Famine Issue with the U.S. Government

from: BLK-SEA@LISTSERV.NODAK.EDU

The text below (taken from the U.S. Government's Commission on The Ukraine Famine in 1933) details the activities of the German Mennonites living in Kansas to get the U.S. government to take some real action in 1933 related to the famine in the Soviet Union.

(1) The German Mennonites from Kansas indicate in the material below that they had received thousands of letters from the Soviet Union about the famine. Does anyone know if any of these letters were printed in German newspapers in Kansas like they were in North and South Dakota or not?

(2) Does anyone know if any of these letters have survived and are in historical collections, museums or wherever?

(3) Does anyone know if the Germans from Russia (and Ukraine) living in Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota or elsewhere also contacted their Congressman or Senator in 1933, or contacted the State Department of other representatives of the U.S. government?

Does anyone know about any correspondence, such as that below from Germans living in other states besides Kansas?

GERMANS IN KANSAS RAISE THE 1933 FAMINE ISSUE

CHAPTER 6: THE AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THE FAMINE

"Despite ample and timely knowledge about the man-made Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, the US government did not publicly acknowledge what it

knew or respond in any meaningful way. Similarly, a number of members of the American press actively denied in public what they confirmed in private about the famine. . . .

"Robert F. Kelly, chief of the State Department's Division of Eastern European Affairs from 1926 until its abolition in 1937, oversaw research and processed intelligence on the USSR. The single most important post for reliable, timely intelligence was the Russian affairs section at the US Legation in Riga, Latvia, which had monitored the Soviet Union since 1922. . . .

"Among the first American groups to raise the issue of the Famine were Germans who had emigrated from the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. German colonists, Mennonites and others, were first brought to the Russian Empire by Catherine the Great and lived in Ukraine and the Volga Basin since the late 18th century.

"Many fled during the revolution, and the Germans quickly responded to pleas from those left behind. The chairman of a privately organized relief committee, the Mennonite Central Committee, P. C. Hiebert, wrote to Secretary of State Hull on March 27 (1933), making clear the urgency of the situation and announcing his intention to send a Mennonite delegation to Washington. (42) The letter was also referred to Kelly, who replied that:

you are informed that although the Department appreciates the anxiety of American citizens whose relatives in Russia are suffering from lack of food, it is of the opinion that there are no measures which the Government may appropriately take at the present time in order to facilitate relief work being carried on in Russia. In view of this circumstance, it is believed that the sending of a delegation to Washington to discuss this matter, as suggested by you, would serve no useful purpose. (43)

Dr. Hiebert, understandably, was not satisfied. On April 7 (1933), he wrote a similar letter directly to the President, hoping that the energy Roosevelt had shown in domestic affairs might be channeled to help Famine victims abroad. One passage was particularly urgent, "*Even though America is not officially recognized by the Soviet government, IS THERE NOT SOME WAY BY WHICH IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SEND*

Germans In Kansas Raise 1933 Fam ine Issue with the U.S. Government (cont'd)

FOOD TO THOUSANDS OF STARVING INNOCENT CHILDREN?" (44)

Hiebert also prevailed upon his Senator, Arthur Capper, to write FDR on his behalf. (45) Roosevelt promised to take the matter up with the Secretary of State. (46) Secretary of State Cordell Hull answered Senator Capper:

I can well understand the concern of the Mennonites in this country, for their relatives and friends in Russia who are suffering from lack of food. Unfortunately, there do not appear to be any measures which this Government may appropriately take at this time in order to alleviate the sufferings of these unhappy people. (47)

The response to Hiebert, again from Kelly, stated that "there is unfortunately little to be added" to the letter of April 5:

Although sympathy is felt for those American citizens who are so deeply concerned for their relatives and friends in Russia, there appears to be no effective measure which this Government can appropriately take at the present time for the purpose of alleviating the sufferings of persons in Russia who are in lack of food.

Kelly included the name and address of Am-Deruta Transport Corporation which purchased foodstuffs for Soviet citizens through 'torgsin' stores. He added:

Although the Department cannot assume any responsibility for the integrity of the organization mentioned, it is suggested that you may desire to communicate with the Am-Deruta Corporation with a view to ascertaining whether it is possible for your co-religionists to enter into satisfactory arrangements with that corporation whereby foodstuffs and other necessities may be furnished to their friends and relatives in Russia. (48)

Hiebert's group continued to lobby on behalf of the starving. On May 20 (1933), he wrote his freshman Congressman, Randolph Carpenter, asking that he assist a Mennonite delegation coming to Washington in June. (49) Carpenter approached the White House and was referred to the Department of State. (50)

Kelly answered that while the delegation could "serve no useful purpose if the object of its journey is to endeavor to influence this Government to intervene or to take other steps on behalf of Mennonites residing in Russia," it would be received at the State Department "with every courtesy and will be given a full opportunity to discuss with appropriate officials of the Department" any matters within the departments jurisdiction. Meeting the President, however would be "difficult, if not impossible." (51)

Rev. Charles H. Hagus, a German Evangelical, wrote to Cordell Hull in June (1933), expressing the anxiety felt by Colorado's community of "Russian" Germans for the "untold sufferings" endured by their friends and relatives left behind. (52) Again Kelly replied:

While sympathy is felt for the sufferings of the persons referred to, and for the anxiety of their American relatives and friends, there appear to be no effective measures which this Government can appropriately take at the present time for alleviating the conditions alluded to in your letter. (53)

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FOOTNOTES:

42. "Permit us as Mennonites of the U.S.A., to bring a plea before you in behalf of our co-religionists in Russia, who are now dying in large numbers from actual starvation. We receive thousands of letters pleading in the most pitiable manner for bread. According to testimonies verified by thousands of letters, the people are dying in large numbers for want of food. The conditions must be decidedly worse than in 1921-1922, when America carried on very extensive relief operations in that country.

"In spite of hard times our people are willing to sacrifice and send food to their brethren over the seas, but political situations in Russia make an effective relief-work impossible under present conditions.

"If you think it advisable we shall be glad to have a delegation call on you and explain conditions and situations sufficiently as to give a fair insight into the situation. I have myself been in Russia and understand conditions, therefore I am convinced that if the atrocities committed in Russia were featured by the American press as they did the treatment of Jews in Germany, the American people would be horrified.

Germans In Kansas Raise 1933 Famine Issue with the U.S. Government (cont'd)

"Prompt action will be most highly appreciated because thousands of our citizens in this country have bloodrelatives among the starving in Russia, and therefore very anxious to have the way cleared for effective relief work.

"Trusting that I may soon hear from you that the matter is taken up in the effective Rooseveltian way which the whole nation has learned to appreciate in the last few weeks, I am,

*In the Name of the American Mennonites,
Very respectfully yours, (signed),"*

P. C. Hiebert, Chairman, Mennonite Central Committee, Hillsboro, Kansas, to Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, March 27, 1933; 861.48/2433

43. Robert F. Kelly to P. C. Hiebert, April 5, 1933; 861.48/2433

44. P. C. Hiebert to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, April 7, 1933; 861.48/2433. Original emphasis.

45. Senator Arthur Capper to President Roosevelt, April 10, 1933; 861.48/2433

46. President Roosevelt to Senator Arthur Capper, April 14, 1933; 861.48/2433

47. Secretary of State Hull to Senator Capper, April 26, 1933; 861.48/2433

48. Robert F. Kelly to P. C. Hiebert, April 26, 1933; 861.48/2433

49. P. C. Hiebert to Rep. Randolph Carpenter, May 20, 1933; 861.404/358

50. Hon. Randolph Carter, M.C. to Secretary of State Cordell Hull, May 31, 1933; 861.404/358. Hon. Randolph Carter to State Department, June 1, 1933; 861.404/359

51. Robert F. Kelly to Hon. Randolph Carpenter, M.C., June 1, 1933; 861.4016/358

52. Charles H. Hagus, Sterling, Colorado, to Secretary of State, June 17, 1933; 861.4016/358

53. Robert F. Kelley to Reverend Charles H. Hagus, Sterling, Colorado, June 26, 1933; 861.4016/358

". . . The Man-Made Famine, given the absence of internationally recognized human rights norms and an Administration committed to closer ties with the Soviets, was seen as an internal Soviet affair, viewed with skepticism, or simply not mentioned.

"Politicians and opinion makers either turned a blind eye toward Stalin's famine out of expediency or saw sympathy for the Soviet Union as a litmus test of one's commitment to a more just society in this country.

"The tragedy is that the reality of mass starvation and collective victimization became politicized such that the question of fact concerning whether there was a famine was subordinated to the question of one's political values.

"This is ever the case when human issues are viewed through the prism of one's commitment to the Right or the Left. If there is one lesson to be learned from this tragedy, it must reside in the universality of human rights and human suffering.

"If the quest for a 'greater good' or the struggle against some 'greater evil' is seen to require a double standard of blindness toward the injustice and evil perpetrated by those who claim to be on our side of the political spectrum, the victims will always be ignored." (End of Chapter 6)

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Material from "Investigation of the Ukrainian Famine 1932-1933, Report to Congress, Commission on The Ukraine Famine," Hon. Daniel A. Mica, M.C. (D-FL), Chairman, Dr. James E. Mace, Staff Director, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1988, Pages 161-163, 184.

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ArtUkraine.com Information Service (ARTUIS)
Kyiv, Ukraine and Washington, D.C. (202) 437-4707, ArtUkraine.com@starpower.net
The Great Ukrainian Famine-Genocide 1932-1933 Gallery

<http://www.artukraine.com/famineart/index.htm>
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Koch's Kolumn
by **Dr. Raymond P. Koch**

All of us have observed the different manner in which folks approach the "Golden Years."

Some are cheerful, out-going, and maintain a circle of friends into an advanced age. Others carry a lot of negative baggage and become quite self-centered.

Can you recall how seldom you saw that trait in our grandparents?

When my grandparents reached the age where they were unable to walk around the neighborhood to visit friends, or attend church, many friends would visit them. And the pastor would call.

I treasure a picture I have of Pastor Gyrog who was so kind to my grandparents. The picture was taken at a gathering the afternoon before the evening he passed away. He stood between my father, Peter, and Pastor Estes and looked the picture of health.

In the mid-1950's while attending dental school in Portland, I was the only family member in Portland and visited two to three times a week to check on my grandparents, run errands, and have some great visits.

Grandmother's friends laughed often as they shared news of their families and neighbors. At times they would become pensive when the loss of an acquaintance was discussed, but their religious faith in the Hereafter kept them from dwelling on the loss of an old friend.

They definitely had the mindset that they had accomplished what God expected of them and were ready to go themselves.

The older gentlemen were almost all members of the "Bruderschaft" or brotherhood and since grandfather could not get to church as his health declined, some of his group would come to his home to meet and hold their service. After their meeting they would have a less serious visiting session.

As with the ladies the news as to whom had passed away elsewhere was spread to the men by those who subscribed to the "Kirchenbote", a German language, church-connected periodical.

Those with roots in the same village would ask others if the descendant was from the family that lived by the bridge, the oil mill, across from the school, or elsewhere in the Dorf of their birth.

Now I can understand how memories from 60 to 70 years past can remain fresh in one's memory bank. At the time these elderly men astounded me with their recall ability.

When we were creating the Kolb village map, the nicknames of the home's inhabitants were often added as it meant much more to the old-timers than simply Henry Adler or Jacob Rehn.

There were lots of Heinrich Adlers and Jacob Rehns but not all of them had the same nick-names. In fact, some were too long to be used in the space available.

It later helped establish the facts when a Meininger visiting Kolb videotaped a fine, brick home as their ancestral abode before coming to America. He had the right piece of real estate, but he had no way to know that after Henry Thorn bought the site from Meininger's grandparents in 1910 upon his return from America that the home was removed and a new one built.

It was easily identified, by location as Art Thorn recalled many details such as the fact that his father's uncle, "Felda " Thorn, was their neighbor to the south.

Our member, Leon Maul, is a Thorn grandson and can thank his lucky stars that the family was able to leave Russia and return to America in 1921.

When I recall a visit to the Thorn's dairy in Washougal, Washington and a visit to the Miller's farm in Felida, OR, I remember what fun it was to explore barns, climb trees, etc.

Koch's Kolumn (cont'd)

Now I wish I could eavesdrop on their first hand accounts of what had and was happening in Russia.

Years later, by virtue of my good fortune in being able to spend some time with my beloved grandparents, I was able to hear much they recalled from years past.

Their early home in Russia was discussed as was Denver and Fort Morgan, Colorado.

I could at times vividly picture the primitive living conditions--and the crowded living quarters.

Some relatives and acquaintances were so land poor they had to beg from more affluent relatives and friends.

My father shook his head sadly when he described a little boy visiting with his folks who reached into a slop barrel to pick out a bread crust to ease his hunger.

Only male members of a family were allotted a land share. If one had only daughters, one was soon unable to raise enough food to feed the family.

Is it any wonder we feel like this land is close to the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow?

While our kinsmen in Russia had already starved or were starving,* we youngsters in America were able to pick seasonal crops, sell papers, mow lawns, deliver show bills for free passes, help in family businesses, and learn how to make a nickle or two. And we were well fed.

A great learning tool was bequeathed to us early in life: how to be still and listen.

Remember the phrase: "Schwei still ich muss zu der Mann schwetzen." It translated to "Be still-- I have to talk to the man."

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*(Editor's note: please see **Germans In Kansas Raise 1933 Famine Issue with the U.S. Government** on page 2 of this issue)

We would be still and absorb what older folks thought was important. Their formal education was negligible, but they had post-graduate degrees in the school of hard knocks and common sense.

The basic tenets of their philosophy were religious faith, self reliance, and a willingness to share with those less fortunate.

I can remember picking up groceries at Lehl's market on 9th street, for my grandparents.

I overheard, on occasion, old gentlemen asking the clerk to deliver items to an elderly couple or individual. They paid for it but wanted anonymity for their compassionate gestures. And they have had it until now.

Do any of you recall Mr. Wiedemann who lived north of Shaver Street on N.E. 10th?

Or Mr. Krum who lived a block from the store? Or the short, stocky Schreiner who had the shoe repair shop on the corner near Weimers on N.E. Union Avenue?

What wonderful old gentlemen they were and what a neat man Mr. Lehl was as he added an item or two to the delivery.

He also allowed my grandfather the use of a lot he owned between his home and that of Grandfather Koch.

Mom spoke of our grocers with a lot of respect. The Repps, Ebels, Bihns, Hildermanns, Flaigs, Sinners, and then young Miller who bought and ran one on 17th and N.E. Killingsworth Street.

What I liked about these people was their usually happy attitude. Customers were greeted like old friends--which they were.

The next time you see Adam Bihn, long retired, check that great smile of his. I hauled a fair amount of sausage from his establishment back to The Dalles in years past.

Koch's Kolumn (cont'd)

There are so many memories associated with the old neighborhood. When I roam the area of Rose City Cemetery where my folks and grandparents rest, I see the names of so many relatives and friends; and frankly, the memories can become overwhelming.

Within a few yards of my grandparents I see Dr. Otto Uhle, and wife; Bill and Edith Spady and it is hard to handle the emotions that surface.

My Sunday school teachers, relatives, and old friends are everywhere in the vicinity.

How fortunate we were to have had their example to emulate. And their children and grandchildren carry on the example they set.

Nowadays the gifts are larger as the times are more affluent and bequests are made to colleges and community projects as well as churches and charity.

Alumni magazines have listed members of our group who have been most generous to Oregon and Washington state universities, Linfield College, Pacific University, and Carroll College in Helena, Montana. I am so proud to have a connection to these generous folk.

And may God continue to bless them. . . .

Raymond Koch

President, Oregon Chapter AHSGR

**Transportation for AHSGR Convention
June 17-22, 2003
Yakima, Washington**

Do you need transportation to attend the 2003 AHSGR Convention in Yakima, Washington?

The Oregon Chapter is considering chartering a bus for the use of members and friends.

Please let us know your desires and needs. Call Dr. Raymond Koch at (541) 296-6061 for more information.

**A Modern Response to
Need in Russia**

Steve Schrieber:

Here is a follow-up article to those printed in the Oregon Chapter newsletter about a year ago regarding the work of Alexander Pfaffenrot. As you recall Mr. Pfaffenrot visited our chapter seeking help for the orphanage.

The following is a translation of parts of a recent (March 23, 2003) letter which was sent by Bishop Volker Sailer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church - Urals, Siberia and the Far East. It describes the developments in regard to the Orphanage Project which is led by Alexander Pfaffenrot and Andreas Lieder who were on a speaking tour in Western North America last May.

--Horst W. Gutsche

(e-mail: hgutsche@telusplanet.net)

Alexander Pfaffenrot comes from Korneevka and was a very influential head of a kolkhoz and of the village of Korneevka which is situated about 100 kilometers west of the metropolitan city of Omsk which has about one million inhabitants. He started to build a large house for his daughter, who has many children, but before it was completed the whole extended family immigrated to Germany and now lives in the region of Celle and Unterlues in the Lueneburger Heath.

He received the Order of Merit because he did so much for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and in the other states of the former Soviet Union. He took many transports filled with material into Russia and already did this before perestroika. And so he is also active in this work today. His grandson with the same name of Alex will now become my translator and personal assistant because I do not speak the Russian language.

Alexander Pfaffenrot had to watch how his semi-completed house was stripped by the people who lived in Korneevka and area. Then the family decided to make this house into a children's home. In Russia women who give birth can simply leave their

A Modern Response to Need in Russia (cont'd)

babies at the hospital after birth and many mothers do this. With that action there is, unfortunately, then the beginning of tragic series of events which leads to an orphanage, a home for youth, a youth detention center and finally even prison. The house was to be developed and furnished so that children such as these could be helped. For this purpose, the society "Christians Help Children" was founded in the locality of Unterluess. The initial plan to run a children's home was not possible because of the hindrances placed on this plan by the Russian and German bureaucratic system.

At present it has come to the point where Alexander Pfaffenrot is prepared to sign over this house to the Evangelical Lutheran Church - Urals, Siberia and the Far East, of which I am the head by being the bishop. We now plan to set up two family homes in this house. This would be families which take care of 10-12 children each and they would be mostly paid by the Russian government. There are many such foster parents and even more children who would like to be taken care of in this way.

Next to the new "Children's Home of Korneevka" there is a very fine building which used to be a kindergarten but which is no longer used. It is possible that we might be able to also obtain this building through Alexander Pfaffenrot who has a lot of influence in the area. We would like to develop this building as a vacation and retreat center. Besides this, the old Pfaffenrot home is located across the street and we could also get this as well. The whole complex would be a wonderful place for children without a home and without parents in the whole county and for children and youth from the city of Omsk who would like to have retreats there in order to get out of the city.

Our Church would thereby develop and run the first orphanage after the change in government in Russia and would build a needed retreat center for the province of Omsk. Unfortunately our Church does not have its own funds. We live entirely from that which we receive "from the West." This brings me to the request which we come to you with; namely to help with a work team. We are very eager to direct such a team and to take care of organization for the

same in Russia if only the construction team would come (my note: from Germany) to do their part of the work. The work would include the modernization of the houses and making them winterproof and developed for their future purpose as well as developing the grounds and constructing a fence.

We are able to offer a non-stop flight from Frankfurt or Hanover and we can accommodate up to 20 people in our church center in Omsk in accord with German standards and would also provide for translators, drivers and some helpers. It would make sense if someone in the construction field could come to view the project firsthand. I will be in Germany from the end of June to the beginning of July and would be available for further questions and could be of help in regard to other considerations. As we plan to organize several trips to Siberia for mission helpers and groups leaders and helpers for summer Bible camps, someone could travel along with one of these groups.

Now I hope that I have given you a short summary of the work which needs to be done. We would be very thankful for your involvement. I will be active in terms of procuring official funding and grants. I include a list of summer trips to Omsk with this letter. In the next week I will be in St. Petersburg for a meeting of the bishops and of the consistory and will be in Omsk as of Saturday.

All the best and many thanks,

Volker E. Sailer (Bishop)

Address information:

Bishop Volker Sailer

*Ev. Lutheran Church in the Urals, Siberia and the Far East
Roshdestwenskogo - Str. 2/1*

RUS - 644 020 Omsk

Russia

Tel. 0117 3812 403753

Tel. 0110 3812 417790

Fax: 0117 3812 402590

E-mail: luth@kirche.omsk.su

*We Want Your Pictures
and Stories*

Please send:

1) a **scanned image** (200dpi)

or

2) a **photo quality print** (*you can do this at Kinko's or any of a number of other printing shops for about \$1 per page—and you can put a number of regular size photos on one page*)

of a favorite photo of your German-Russian ancestors with a short description of the photo including:

- **names (of as many people as you can identify)**
- **date (as close as you can get)**
- **as much information about the photo and where your ancestors came from as you can give**
- **your name**

The photo on this page and the photo on page 15 are examples. The description doesn't have to be long—a couple of sentences or a paragraph. But, if you do have a longer story to tell, please send it.

We will try to include at least one photo (and more, as space permits) in each issue of *Chronicle Unserer Leute*.

Because a photo tells a story by itself of how people dressed, worked, played, a photo history is a great way to expand our understanding of our German-Russian ancestors. So, please get out those wonderful old photos, and tell us part of your story.

Send **scanned images** (attached to your e-mail) to:

tw-CBL@attbi.com

Please mention in the subject line "CUL newsletter"

Please send **photo prints** to:

**CUL Newsletter
1830 NE 141st Avenue
Portland, OR 97230**



My grandfather, George Morasch (top) and his father, Peter (right) haying on the family farm near Didsbury, Alberta, Canada, about 1913. They immigrated to Canada from Jagodnaja, Saratov, Russia, in 1899, and moved to Portland, Oregon, about 1920.

—Terri Williams

****Upcoming Events****

Mark Your Calendars!

MAY

18 May Sunday, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., chapter meeting. Guest speaker or special program.

21 May Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Genealogy Library open.

JUNE

3 Jun Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., chapter board meeting at Hanna Deines'

NO chapter meeting this month
–Convention time!

June 18 - 22: National Convention in Yakima, Washington. All members encouraged to attend!

Genealogy Library
will NOT be open in June

JULI

NO board meeting OR chapter meeting
this month!

AUGUST

9 Aug Saturday, chapter annual picnic at the Miller Farm, Felida, Washington (near Vancouver, Washington). Map and time will be given out later.

August (cont'd)

28 Aug 1941 Deportation of the Volga Germans from their homeland. The chapter will recognize this day with a special remembrance. Date and time will be announced later.

Genealogy Library
will NOT be open in August

Meeting Places

Unless otherwise noted, all chapter meetings and genealogy workshops are held at Rivercrest 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) 232-6036.

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 entree, salad, or dessert to share and your own plate and utensils. At the potluck lunches, \$2 for members and \$2 for non-members is requested to help defray the cost of the meeting facilities.

Oregon Chapter meetings held on Sunday afternoons 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 after-noon meetings do not include a potluck lunch.

Guests are always welcome to any chapter meeting or genealogy workshop.

**CHAPTER OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
2003-2004**

President:

Dr. Raymond P. Koch (term expires 2003)

2904 Old Dufur Road
The Dalles, OR 97058-4043
(541) 296-6061
rpdllkoch@gorge.net

Vice President:

Ed Wagner (term expires December 2003)

2720 S.W. Montgomery Drive
Portland, OR 97201-1633
(503) 228-0007
Fax: (503) 228-1016

Second Vice President:

Steve Schreiber (term expires December 2003)

6806 S.E. 35th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202-8218
(503) 774-9753
schreibpdx@earthlink.net

Secretary:

Laurel Anderson (term expires 2003)

8214 S.W. 2nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97219-4604
(503) 244-5441
laurelabooks@juno.com

Treasurer:

Lois Klaus (term expires 2003)

111 N.E. 67th Avenue
Portland, OR 97213-5029
(503) 232-3065
lklaus@earthlink.net

Directors:

Dr. William Wiest (term expires December 2004)

5009 S.E. 46th Avenue
Portland, OR 97206-5048
(503) 771-4321
wiest@reed.edu

Directors (continued)

Lorraine Miller (term expires December 2004)

13605 N.E. Clackamas St.
Portland, OR 97230-7230
(503) 252- 8475

Shirley Hurrell (term expires December 2004)

16525 S.W. Rigert Terrace
Beaverton, OR 97007-5827
(503) 642-4105
shurell @ gte.net

Hanna Deines (term expires December 2003)

2008 NE 156th
Portland, OR 97230-8287
(503) 252-6036

Diane Koch (term expires December 2003)

2904 Old Dufur Road
The Dalles, OR 97058-4043
(541) 296-6067
rpdllkoch@gorge.net

Erna Markwart (term expires December 2003)

1535 N.E. 168th Place
Portland, OR 97230-6002
(503) 254-4454

Articles for Chronicle Unserer Leute

Deadlines for submission of articles for the
Chronicle Unserer Leute are:

June 15 for the July/August 2003 issue

August 15 for the September/October 2003 issue

October 15 for the November/December 2003
issue

December 15 for the January/February 2004 issue

February 15 for the March/April 2004 issue

Please send submissions to:

Chronicle Unserer Leute
1830 NE 141st Avenue
Portland, OR 97230

or e-mail: tw-CBL@attbi.com

**American Historical Society
of Germans from Russia**

**SUMMARY OF THE AHSGR BOARD
MEETINGS IN LINCOLN, NE**

MARCH 20-22, 2003

by Diana Bell

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bruce Cropper, Chairman

Presented a revised 2003 budget that was very lean. Cash flow still a problem. An IRS audit gave us a clean bill of health. Grafton & Associates will finish the 2002 audit after April 15th.

*EDITORIAL & PUBLICATIONS
COMMITTEE*

Jerry Siebert, Chairman

Committee worked on policy issues, work plans and policy & procedures manual. Are investigating sending Journals and newsletters from headquarters by electronic mail. Want other committees and members to seek and submit good articles for the Journal. The Post convention newsletter will have short reports from all Board committees. Will be printing numerous anthologies for sale. Reported on their revised priorities for expenses. Planning a book sale promotional.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Henry Smick, Chairman

Working on making contacts with the Landsmannschaft in Gennany to index their publications list in English. Updated their Policy on Collections. The Deitz Book is being translated, as well as other projects in the works. Norka Village Video should be finished in April. A Farming Equipment Exhibit is planned for the other half of the Robert Kincade Blacksmith Shop. The Fanning Mill will go there when it is restored. Applying for a grant for the Volga Relief Society translation, indexing and preservation project which is shared with the Nebraska University who has some of the records. A Video Tour of the Heritage Center in Lincoln is completed. Copies will be available for purchase by the Chapters.

GENEALOGY COMMITTEE

Doris Evans, Chairman

Working with the Village Coordinators toward the VC meeting at the Yakima Convention. Urges all Vcs to attend convention. Has total list of all Pleve Charts at Headquarters and held privately. 570 Charts will be listed on the AHSGR web site. The PAY genealogy database has been cleaned up by Frank & Delma McLean of Yakima, WA. From 480,000 to 240,000 individuals. (Note: Central California Chapter has 189,000 in their unedited PAF database.) Updated Policy for Lincoln Research Library: "No children allowed in the Research Library, unless they are doing research" .

FOLKLORE & LINGUISTICS COMMITTEE

Diana Bell, Chairman

Committee making direct contact with the Chapter Presidents has helped in bringing some results for the 2003 Story Telling Contest and the Action Picture Exhibit for the convention. A five year anthology of all the stories submitted for the past contests, will be worked on after the 2003 contest. Updated Policy & Procedure Manual and the Work Plan for 2003-04. Working on a list of interview questions to standardize and encourage chapters to record member stories before it is too late. Working on finding volunteers with the proper equipment to convert audio tapes and records, held at Headquarters to CDs or DVDs for preservation. There are over 500 to convert. Have firm program for the Yakima 2003 Convention.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Bob Gies, Chairman

Plan to advertise in Heritage Quest magazine. Picked a nominee for the 2003 Distinguished Service Award to be given out in Yakima. Enforced the procedure of sending out a letter with each purchase from American Historical Society of Germans from Russia headquarters. A membership survey will go out in mid April. Survey forms will also be given out at the Yakima convention. PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO LINCOLN PROMPTLY. Committee is trying to work directly with Chapter Presidents, Membership chairs and Newsletter Editors. The new Meta-file database is starting to be used by Diane White, membership staff.

AHSGR March, 2003, minutes (cont'd)

TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Ken Leffler, Chairman

Worked on projects for SOAR & MORE. Workpapers and Journals have been digitized. MORE to market. SOAR: 102,000 obits sent out to 93 volunteers; 99,000 obits indexed and returned for quality control and 30,000 finished and ready for the database to be used at the Yakima convention. Have had computer problems at Lincoln; viruses, hackers and hard drive crashes. Plan to purchase one new workstation for use of the public. Updated backup procedures and the Policy Manual. We need member volunteers to convert audio cassettes to CDs or DVDs. If you have the equipment needed to convert tapes to CDs or DVDs, please contact Ken Leffler or Diana Bell.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Jim Fabricius, Chairman

Has researched many old records and gave report on the buildings at the AHSGR Heritage Center. Gave a summary of options possible to manage the Heritage Center site. Proposed a Farm Equipment Exhibit in one half of the Robert Kincade Blacksmith Shop building. Viewed the Heritage Center Tour at AHSGR and will sell copies for \$15.00 each. Reviewed the Strategic Plan and revised the Policy Manual on Collections.

JOINT MEETING OF BOD AND BOT

Alton Sisseli, Calif. representative on Foundation
Foundation will present a fund raising project at Convention. Start Now! -- collecting ink jet cartridges, etc. Watch for details in the Newsletter from Lincoln. No cost to us but will bring in \$ to AHSGR general operating funds.

A pilot project of selling AHSGR books on E-BAY was successful. Sold over \$500.00 worth since September 2002. Will expand to include other items members might want to donate for sale on E-BAY. MORE: working on a marketing plan for obituaries and other AHSGR items.

Need more volunteers to help staff in Lincoln and at home.

The AHSGR/GHRS Special Committee is making progress in joint cooperation for GRHS.

The Russian Archives Committee is working with the Kansas University to copy records in Russia. Planning a trip to Saratov to make and improve contacts.

The McLeans gave a report on the 2003 Yakima Convention.

Jerry Siebert, chairman of the CDC hosted 2004 AHSGR Convention in Modesto, CA, gave a progress report on the current plans.

Marianne Long, chairman, reported on the 2005 Oklahoma City Convention progress.

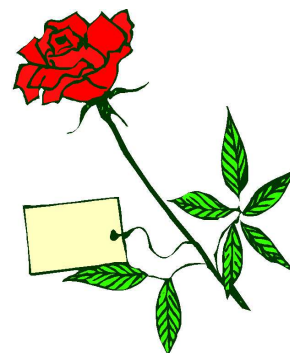
Next Board of Directors and Trustees Meeting will be in Yakima, WA on June 16-17, and Lincoln, NE on Sept 18-20, 2003.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for the flowers, cards, visits and calls from so many members. Also your prayers and good wishes were appreciated.

Your President,

Ray Koch



AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Form

Membership 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 & 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)
Student (15 - 24)	\$ 15 (Receive 4 newsletters, Youth Membership packet, Membership card, and discounts)
Youth (1 - 14)	\$ 8 on specially advertised books and special convention benefits.)
Newsletters Only	\$ 12 For non-members

New Member____ Renewal____ Individual____ Family____ Youth____ Student____
 Membership Year 200__

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 desire to participate actively.:

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

Please make all checks payable to AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER and send your membership dues and applications to:

Charles Williams, 1830 NE 141st Avenue, Portland, OR 97230-4056
Phone: 503-252-0902 E-mail: f26ruth@attbi.com

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



In Memoriam

Barbara Flegel, beloved wife of our Foundation President, Mayo Flegel, has passed away as a result of a rapidly progressing, rare disease.

A talented volunteer for church, charitable groups, and AHSGR she and her husband spent significant time in Lincoln contributing their talents.

Services and internment were held in Le Sueur, Minnesota. Barbara is survived by her husband, Mayo, two daughters, one son, two grandsons and a brother.

A memorial donation from the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR has been sent to headquarters.

Robert Lindy Goldhammer died March 12, 2003 at age 74.

Mr. Goldhammer was born April 5, 1928, in Belt, Montana. He went to Benson High School and lived in the Portland area most of his life. He was the former co-owner of Johnson Drapery Co. In 1950, he married Jene Herder.

Survivors include his wife; sons, Rick, Robert, Jacksen and Timm; and three grandchildren.

Private service. Remembrances to Providence Hospice. Mr. Goldhammer was buried March 18, 2003.

—Roger Haas



Taken at 46 E 13th St., Portland Oregon. The shop was run by George and Regina Feifer (Pfeifle) and their sons and daughter. Regina was born in Borodino Russia, George was born in Scotland, South Dakota. His parents came from Friedenstal Russia in 1877. They lived in the Dakota's until 1902 then moved to the Old's area of Alberta, Canada.

—Irene Feifer

This issue can be viewed online at:
<http://germans-russia-pdx.com/Portland/newsletter.htm>