

Newsletter

Winter 2007

vol. 10, issue 1



Sunflower Chapter
of the American
Historical Society
of Germans
from Russia



Next Meeting

Feb. 18

ATTENTION,
EARLY PLANNERS:
The spring meeting
will be on Apr. 29.

SOCIAL...12:00
FINGER FOODS...12:30
MEETING & PROGRAM...1:00

Come to Munjor and hear Frank Jacobs talk
about his trip last year to Argentina, where
he met with Volga Germans living there.

In heaven with the chickens

by Sister Alice Ann Pfeifer CSA

ALL RIGHT, IT IS TRUE that Folklore Chair Leona Pfeifer never meant her traditional Volga German New Year's wish to come out the way it did. When she wished chapter members eternal life with the angels in heaven, she had wanted to say "die Engel," but "die Hingel" came out instead. Once her mistake was pointed out, she cracked, "Well, there will be chickens in heaven, too."

The annual Christmas meeting began as it usually does, with a scrumptious potluck dinner. This time over forty members and their guests crowded into the old Munjor school to make fast work of all the food spread out on buffet tables: bean and noodle soup, bierachs, kuchen, pie, and many other old favorites.

The meal was followed by important announcements concerning the international AHSGR convention to be held in Hays June 10-17. Leonard Schoenberger noted that admission prices have been set at \$70 for members and \$100 for non-members. Ticket-holders will be able to attend a week's worth of sessions given by presenters from Russia, Argentina, and all over the USA. Leonard invited members to call him anytime at 785-726-4917 with questions.

In behalf of the entire chapter, President Kevin Rupp then thanked Leon Wolf for his service as chapter secretary and announced that Judy Hoffman will take over until elections are held again. Kevin also congratulated Dolores Pfannenstiel on her recent award for outstanding service to the Kansas Round-Up of Chapters. Finally, treasurer Elmer Dreher reminded members always to pay their local and national dues to him because of the confusion that results when dues are sent directly to Lincoln.

The gathering ended with short holiday-themed presentations by Bernie Schumacher and Leona Pfeifer, along with a rousing German sing-along led by LeRoy Herrman.

New members Camille (Bollig) Ellard with her daughters Kirsten and Cheyenne join in on the chapter's Christmas merriment. According to Membership Chair LeRoy Herrman, seventeen new members were recruited this fall.



Winter 2007

NEWS & MEDIA TIDBITS

-- "Well, you know, Russia is a very complicated place these days, certainly a different place than I remember when I last served in our Embassy in the mid 1990s. That was a time when Russia was flat on its back economically and you've seen a fairly remarkable economic revival over the last five or six years..." So said the current US Ambassador to Russia, William J. Burns, in

an interview given January 4 in Washington, DC. He added that Russia's future looks bright for three reasons: the new emergence of a middle class, the country's potential for diversifying its income beyond profits from oil and gas, and its huge intellectual capital, which "sets it apart from lots of other societies which happen to have a lot of natural resources." (Click the link "Public Statements by Ambassador Burns" at

www.moscow.usembassy.gov/.)

--A darker picture of Russia today is painted by Michael Specter in the January 27 issue of *The New Yorker*. Among the facts unearthed in "Why are Vladimir Putin's opponents dying?" is this: thirteen prominent Russian journalists have died mysteriously since Putin's ascent to power in late 1999. (See www.newyorker.com.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that many of you have put June 10-17 on your calendar for the international convention. Things are coming along well, and we should have some really good speakers and programs.

Our *Fasnacht* meeting is set for Sunday, February 18, starting with a social at 12:00, finger foods at 12:30, and a meeting with a program at 1:00. We ask that you please bring your favorite finger foods, and while you're at it, please bring your memories of all those favorite foods that you ate during Lent. Frank Jacobs will be our guest speaker talking about his trip to Argentina. Many of our relatives ended up in South America either by chance or by choice. Frank will show a video that he took, highlighting many of Argentina's Volga German colonies, cemeteries, and similar sites.

Our web site, www.volgagerman.net, is constantly being updated to give the schedule of events for the convention, so please check it out on a regular basis. On February 18 Leonard

will give our chapter an update and ask for your help. Don't be shy!

On behalf of the convention committee, I would like to thank the Kansas City Area Chapter for their \$200 donation toward convention expenses. Because the 2007 convention will represent Kansas chapters as a whole, their help is the kind that our chapter both welcomes and encourages. So thank you, Kansas City members, for taking the lead and stepping up to the plate!

The Sunflower Chapter in association with the Volga German Society of Ellis and Rush Counties is now offering the re-mastered CD *14 German Favorites*, featuring music by the Volga German Singers of Ellis County, Kansas. See the flyer going out with this newsletter. Proceeds from sales will go to the Sunflower Chapter, and the CD itself will help perpetuate the history of our local Volga Germans. In the very near future we will be offering a new Larry Weigel CD, *Opa's One Man German Band*, exclusively for our chapter. Watch future newsletters for more information.

Our membership is still growing. We are now up to 86 members with our monthly radio program on KAYS 1400 helping us. I am hoping that we make the 100 mark in time for our convention! It airs every third Wednesday of the month at 8:40 a.m.

See you in Munjor on Sunday, February 18, and bring a friend!

--Kevin Rupp

Kevin Rupp's Genealogy Update



CENSUS LISTS

I have been working on the 1850 Katherinenstadt census and hope to have it done in time for the chapter meeting. The 1857 census translations will be finished soon and sent for compilation.

Dr. Igor Pleva has just sent the final 1893 family list for Louis, Russia, and this will be compiled soon.

SPECIAL THANKS

Tony Leiker has retired from genealogy and has sent me his research information, so the books Tony always provided will still be available. In the future any questions on family genealogies should be directed to me. I will be glad to help anyone as much as I can. I want to thank Tony for his guidance and insight all these years.

KANSAS ROUND-UP BOOTH

Do you have any family history books, Volga German cookbooks, village histories, or other privately published books related to our history and heritage that you would like to sell at the 2007 national convention? The Kansas Round-Up of Chapters is sponsoring a booth and will put your items up for sale for a percentage of the purchase price. Watch for details yet to come.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Wilbert and Shirley Pfeifer
Arlyn and Marietta Schupman
Orville and Janel Moore
Edwin and Darlene Holzmeister
Samuel J. Brungardt
Camille Ellard
Jeannine C. Call
Albinus and Lucy Hertel



OVERHEARD

This happened at the Munjor grocery store, says Bernie Schumacher. Some men were there on a cold winter day talking about their farming practices when another farmer came in anxious about the weather report. He said to the others, "Boyce, put your cattle in the barn--the weatherman said we are going to have diminishing winds."



Lasset uns beten

The Glorious Mysteries round out our collection of the fifteen mysteries of the traditional German Catholic rosary.

1. Der von den Todten auferstanden ist.
2. Der in den Himmel aufgefahen ist.
3. Der uns den heiligen Geist gefandt hat.
4. Der dich, O Jungfrau, in den Himmel aufgenommen hat.
5. Der dich, O Jungfrau, im Himmel gekroent hat.

Tribute to Lawrence Weigel from his son

Part Eight

Lawrence Weigel Jr. wrote this biography as a gift to his father while Lawrence Sr. was still alive. In Part Seven, we learned of colorful incidents involving "Cussing Adolph" where Lawrence worked and, on the home front, Grandma Gertrude. Next comes a description of how Lawrence came to be an expert on Volga German music and folklore.

IN THE MID-1950s, Dad teamed up with Nick Pfannenstiel, the finest lead tenor singer in the area, who sang for weddings, funerals, and other events. According to Dad, "Nick told me, 'You are just the man I am looking for. I will teach you the songs and get you in contact with others who know them. But in return you will have to type up a book for me, so I can pass it on to my children.'" Dad quickly agreed to that, and the two turned out to be a great match.

Mr. Pfannenstiel and Dad collected 200 songs and in 1956 compiled their collection in a bound book. Dad added another 100 songs after Mr. Pfannenstiel died. I was only 11 or 12 at the time, but I remember Dad meeting with Mr. Pfannenstiel at our house a couple of times each week, exchanging information on the songs they had collected. I didn't realize the significance of what they were doing until later in life.

Mr. Pfannenstiel and Dad would go out together and listen to the old-timers sing the songs. Dad made rough notes on sheet music paper while the old guys sang the melodies. Then he'd make a return visit to make sure he had the songs right.

Dad eventually corresponded with

Dr. R.W. Brednich of the Deutsches Volkslied Archive in Freiburg, Germany. Dr. Brednich could hardly believe that these 200-year-old songs still existed--and of all places in Kansas. Dad had about 150 of these songs transcribed by professional musicologists in Freiburg in exchange for access to his collection of songs. This connection was made possible by Dad's friend, Mrs. Emma Haynes, the noted Volga German historian and writer who had spent 30 years in Germany. Freiburg became a great resource for Dad because then he could trace the origins of Volga German songs by tapping into the archives in Germany, which contained versions of many of these songs.

Dad was known throughout his life for his meticulous research. He was a prolific writer and over twelve years wrote more than 250 articles in a weekly column for the Ellis County Star. He authored *From the Rhine to the Volga to Kansas: The Story of My Volga German Ancestors and Their Descendants* and *German Folk Songs from the Volga*, which contains 100 favorites with music score, German words, and English translations. He was a contributing author to numerous publications, including *The Official Centennial History of the Volga Germans from Ellis and Rush Counties* and a

pageant play performed in 1976, *Exodus to Freedom*.

He had a daily radio program on KAYS in Hays for one year, in which he did sound bites about the heritage of Volga Germans. He gave more than 175 lectures and talks from 1975 to 1985. He was a consultant for two television documentaries tracing the history of the Volga German people.

Music played a key role in his research because much of the Volga German history was passed down to each new generation through folk songs. Dad was a gifted musician, vocalist, speaker, and performer. He helped produce the *Heritage of the Volga Germans* record album in 1976. He loved to sing the old songs. He and other area musicians and singers recorded and distributed many of them to Volga German descendants around the world.

He was a great storyteller. Recently I listened to a tape from one of his speeches he gave in 1981 to a large audience in Lincoln, Nebraska. Dad had the audience laughing and rolling in the aisles with stories about Volga German incidents that had happened in his lifetime. He had great timing with his punchlines.

--TO BE CONTINUED

New Year custom still lives on

by Judy (Pfeifer) Hoffman

"**H**OW MUCH ALLOWANCE DID YOU get when you were little?" an elementary student asked Leona Pfeifer's dad when a resident in a Hays nursing home. He answered, "Whatever I got for New Year's, and it had to last all year!" In his youth, money was scarce, but New Year's Day was the one time children received money from family and close acquaintances.

This past December I went on a quest to determine if the New Year customs of my youth were still practiced today. According to Leonard Schoenberger of Ellis, the custom of "winching" always used to start at midnight. ("Winching" is the Anglicized form of the German verb *wuenschen*, "to wish.") Children began by visiting the homes of grandparents, uncles, and aunts. Always at every house the first thing Leonard's dad did was fire a shotgun in the air when they arrived. Then young and old winched in German. The children were given money, usually a coin or two—unless they were grandchildren or godchildren, who received extra. Adults were offered drinks, and everyone was invited to a generous assortment of ethnic dishes such as *Zwiebach*, *Galrei*, and *Zitter*. There were favorite German pastries, candies, fruit, nuts, and cookies. Then after a short social visit, the family left for the next relatives' home. This went on all day and late into the night.

Schoenberger recalls a time when his dad packed the gun barrel with paper and the blast wasn't loud. So his dad loaded another shell and fired. This time it was an ear-splitting blast that cracked the barrel of the gun.

This was the Schoenberger family's traditional German New Year's wish, translated into English: "I wish you a

happy new year, long life, health, peace and goodwill, and after death eternal happiness."

Winching is still done today in Schoenberger's family. All the children are involved, but their winching begins later in the day, usually around 10 a.m. They are still taught the New Year's wish in German, and everyone recites it together on arrival at people's homes.

Kevin Rupp, Hays resident and member of a younger generation, says his family still follows the tradition, too. They teach the young children the German wish and go house to house, mostly among relatives. He says his favorite holiday cookies are *Spitzbuben*.

A new cap gun for her brother was always a part of New Year's preparations at Leona Pfeifer's childhood home in Munjor. Her brother would shoot the gun as the family arrived at each new house to winch. The New Year's wish she learned is much longer than the one used among the Schoenbergers, but it is very beautiful when spoken in German. Its English translation is, "I wish you a golden table, at every corner a baked fish, and in the center, a jug of wine. That is for your New Year celebration. Today is the eighth day that Christ was born, and that is the truth. So I wish for you lots of luck. May you leave your misfortune in the past. May the Lord allow you to live many more years, and after death may you be with the angels in heaven."

This beautiful custom of winching may not have originated in Germany. Sister Alice Ann Pfeifer CSA, who spent five years as a missionary in Russia, learned while there that winching is an old Russian Orthodox custom. Long ago, people went from



Leonard Schoenberger, Leona Pfeifer, and Kevin Rupp all enjoy sharing their New Year experiences and memories.

house to house wishing their friends and relatives a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year on January 7, the date that Orthodox Christians traditionally observe Christmas. At each house the well-wishers were given coins and snacks. However, in today's Russia she met no one, either Russian or German, who still goes winching. She speculated that perhaps the custom died out due to religious persecution after the 1917 Revolution. The traditional wish usually contained a reference to eternal life, which communists did not believe in. Also, the Soviet government had replaced the traditional Orthodox Christmas celebration on January 7 with a secular observance of New Year's Day on January 1. To this day January 1 remains Russia's biggest holiday, but winching is not part of the celebration.

INTERNET TIP

This March will mark the first full year of the easy availability of SOAR records on the internet.

Items presently available include German Russian obituaries from all fifty states and several foreign countries, including Canada, Argentina, Brazil, and Germany. New documents are being added all the time,

such as cemetery records, wedding and anniversary newspaper clippings, and family genealogies from private collections.

The SOAR database is free for the searching, but a fee is required to download and print materials. This fee helps meet the costs of continuing the project. AHSGR members get a substantial price break, though, so go take a look at www.ahsgrsoar.org today.

New member finds quick connection

by Jim Glassman

I have been researching my Glassman genealogy roots since the late 1970s. What started as a part-time hobby is turning into a fascination of sorts. I have conducted numerous interviews with many of my elderly relatives. Their fascinating stories have led me to additional interviews with all different individuals and also have opened up puzzling new questions to solve. Thanks to my decision to join the AHSGR, one of my more puzzling genealogy questions finally was solved.

Kevin Rupp, president of the local Sunflower Chapter, has been a long-time friend of mine. His wealth of genealogical information has been immeasurable to me. For the longest time Kevin kept reminding me that I need to join the chapter and become a full-time member because of the valuable contacts that would be available to me. I knew many individuals in the chapter but for whatever reason kept putting it off. Finally this past summer I dropped some information off at the St. Joseph Parish Office where Kevin works. Again Kevin reminded me by saying, "OK, Jim, here's the deal. The chapter is running a \$20 sign-up fee for the remainder of the year. Why not give me \$20, so I can sign you up. Don't put it off anymore." I reached in my billfold and handed him \$20 and he signed me up. Shortly thereafter I received a new membership start-up packet followed by regular informative AHSGR newsletters.

Now here was the puzzle I had long tried to solve. My great-grandfather Frank Glassman traveled to America from the Volga village of Rohleder (Raskaty). He came here along with his wife Anna and five of their children. One of these five became my grandfather, Anton Glassman, who was only fifteen years old at the time of their emigration. Over many years I sought relatives of all five children of Frank and Anna Glassman. Between interviews I also checked church, immigration, census, government, and naturalization records. One of the pieces of information I long wanted to verify was the name of the ship my great-grandfather's family took and the date they landed in America. This information could guide me to the ship's manifest, which then would provide me a wealth of additional information. Many of my elderly relatives believed our ancestors had landed in New York. I then discovered my great-grandfather had applied for citizenship in November of 1902 when I researched his naturalization papers on file at our county courthouse. The naturalization papers stated he arrived in New York March of 1900 on the ship *Kaiser Wilhelm*. From this point I spent endless months searching the ports of New York and the manifests of the *Kaiser Wilhelm*, but never found his name listed. I also discovered the *Kaiser Wilhelm* did not even dock in New York in March of 1900, but did so several months later. To sum up, then, I could not find any manifest of any ship arriving in New York

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This is second in a series of reprints. The column "Liebenthal Locals" appeared in the LaCrosse Republican intermittently throughout the early 1900s.

THE LACROSSE REPUBLICAN July 1914

Wheat all harvested and put in the stack. Mat L. Herrman, west of Liebenthal, was the last one to finish around here. He got through last Saturday.

Plenty of rainfall the last few days which puts farmers busy preparing the ground for next year's crop.

Frank Weaver's wheat is turning out better than 19 bushels to the acre.

Edward Diehl has built a new house.

Peter Diehl and Jacob Herrman started their threshing machines the first of the week.

Joe Diehl, son of John Diehl of Spearville, is here visiting.

New Year's in Topeka, c. 1930

by Ed Schwerdt, Northeast Kansas Chapter

When I was a youngster in Topeka in the 1930s, we lived in the 100 block of South Quincy. It was common practice to start winching immediately after 8 o'clock Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on New Year's Day. Nearly all of our relatives and friends lived within walking distance of church, in an area bounded by Harrison, Jefferson, and 1st and 4th Streets. Therefore, we didn't have to travel very far to make the rounds.

The normal greeting at each house, always spoken in German, went something like this: *Ich wuensche euch ein Glueckliches Neues Jahr, lange Leben, Gesundheit, Friede und Einigkeit, nach euer Tod die ewige Glueckseligkeit.* My German might not be pure, but this was the wish pretty much as I

remember it.

The host's kitchen, dining room table, or both were filled with eats of all sorts. This included ham and home-baked breads, but mostly homemade goodies such as *Galrei* or *Zitter* (a type of head cheese) and *Grebbe* (the original funnel cake). The adults were offered *ein Bissa Schnapps*, which was usually illegal and had been cooked by anyone who had access to a still or knew a bootlegger. The polite thing to do was to ask the host to take the first drink--"*Es steht in guter Hand*" ("It stays in a good hand"). If the host stayed home the entire day, he or she might have become a little tipsy by mid-afternoon or evening.

I remember many an early morning (usually at about 12:20 a.m.) when one

of our uncles would come, breaking the silence with a shotgun blast in the air. Our house was always my uncles' second stop, the first having been the home of their parents immediately after midnight. By daybreak, our uncles had already made the rounds and weren't really ready or able to receive any visitors at their own homes. What a way to start the new year!

One of the things we children really looked forward to learning was *wieviel Gelt* (how much money) we had accumulated by the end of the day. A nickel or dime in those days was hard to come by, so how we cherished the *Gelt* from each family we visited. It was always an extra thrill to stop by the homes of godparents, because godchildren were special and generally were showered with a little extra – sometimes upwards to a dollar. If we received a dollar, we could hardly contain ourselves. How forlorn was the child who was not able to visit a godparent on New Year's!

Before leaving to go to another spot, each child would receive a sack of goodies prepared by the host wife—hard candy, candy bars, nuts, animal crackers, and usually an extra special treat of an apple or an orange. When we returned home later in the day, we always split our take with the little ones who were unable to be out and about in the cold and snow.

The custom is carried on in our family today. All our children, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren know how to winch in German, even our little three-year-old granddaughter. The food is out and adults toast each other with *Schnapps*. When it comes time *zum Haus weiter gehen* (to move to the next house), the kiddies receive *Gelt* and the adults receive *ein gold Stuck* (a gold piece), which is a new penny from the year just past, supposedly a good luck charm.

Glueckliches Neues Jahr!

New member finds quick connection

(continued from page 5)

in 1900 with my great-grandfather's name on it. I ended up putting this particular search on the back burner until I could devote more time to it.

Naturally when Kevin signed me up, he had listed my name and mailing address along with my interest in getting information relating to the village of Rohleder. This data then appeared in a newsletter that was mailed to all AHSGR members. Several weeks after my name appeared in print, I received a letter from Mr. Bob Rohleder of Libertyville, Illinois. The letter contained some surprising news about my great-grandfather. Bob said that his grandfather was from Rohleder, too, and in researching manifests, he had found where the names of Frank Glassman, his wife, and five children were listed! I could not believe it! He told me their ship was the *SS Köln*, not the *Kaiser Wilhelm*, and that it had sailed from Bremen, Germany and arrived in Baltimore, not New York, in March of 1900.

We immediately e-mailed each other and exchanged other information. He also was kind enough to copy the page of the manifest listing my great-grandfather and mail it to me. I told Bob that his welcome news helped to solve a big piece of my genealogy puzzle. I also spent 1 ½ hours visiting with Bob by phone about his recent trip to the Volga region, including a stop in present-day Rohleder.

I am convinced that without Kevin's persistence to sign me up as a new member I would not have had the opportunity to learn of Bob and get this vital information I had been searching for. Later I contacted Kevin and thanked him for his diligence in signing me up. I now believe that membership in this organization is not an expense—it is an investment.

THE ELLIS COUNTY NEWS

December 2, 1910

A model monograph of its kind is *German-Russian Settlements in Ellis County*, by the Rev. Francis S. Lang, O. M. Cap., which has been reprinted in pamphlet form from the Kansas Historical Collections, Vol. XI.

The settlements in question originated in 1874, when an obnoxious military law enforced by the Russian government prompted a number of German Catholic colonists in Baronsk, Obermonjour, Zug, Schoenchen, Louis, and other villages about the great Karamann to emigrate to America. The majority of them came to Ellis County, Kansas, where they now established the now flourishing towns of Herzog, Munjor, Catherine, Pfeifer, Schoenchen, and Liebenthal.

It is interesting to note that "the manner of testing the land employed by the settlers was to spade up the ground and to masticate a little of it to discover whether it 'tasted after grain.'"

In the above named settlements, and in other scattered groups throughout Ellis County, these industrious German-Russians after many hard hardships finally prospered, and what is more, they and their children have preserved their faith, their mother tongue, and many of their ancestral customs. Under the direction of the Capuchin Fathers, who took spiritual charge of the colonies in 1878 at the request of Bishop Fink, they have erected fine churches and schools and faithfully attended to their religious duties. They have large families, and their home life is pure, divorce and illegitimates being practically unknown. They still speak German—a dialect similar to that spoken in the Palatinate, interspersed with Latin, French, and especially Russian words and phrases.

Father Lang tells the story of these settlers in simple language, briefly and yet with considerable detail. His method is that of the true historian. Nothing essential is omitted; no statement is made without authority. One can see from the numerous references that it required extended and

painstaking research to gather the data for this little monograph. Much valuable information has been obtained from the surviving pioneers. At the end of the study there is a valuable bibliography, comprising a number of unedited manuscripts. The little monograph reflects great credit on its author and the order to which he belongs. We should like to see 15,000 copies of it distributed among the clergy of these United States as an encouragement to do similar work and as a pattern of how the history of Catholic settlements and parishes should be written.

Presented courtesy of the
ELLIS COUNTY SOCIETY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM,
100 W. 7th, Hays, Kansas

Winter Hours:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Tuesdays through Fridays

Admission: Adults, \$3. Children 3-12, \$1.



PHOTO FEATURE



1. Enrique Kronewitter 2. José Leiker (Juelich), José Gertner, Nicolas Kronewitter, Ignacio Schunk, Juan Shannel, Paulmal Gassman;
3. Raimundo Lolkam, Silvestre, Padre Edens, Padre Vosen, José Wassinger, Pedro Baker y José Falcó;
4. Alvarado Unrein, Pedro Berus, Raimundo Knapp, Francisco Bedel, Juan Kronewitter, y Juan Dobies;
5. Juan Kronewitter, Pedro Schunk, Padre Belinsky y Matías Gassmann;
6. Antonio Harkel, Felipe Unrein, Sebastian Kronewitter, Pedro Knapp, Juan Pedro Gassmann y Juan Edens

This photo from Frank Jacobs was taken in 1918. It is an enlargement of a wallet photo that shows members of the town band in Valle Marie, Entre Rios, Argentina. The village was originally settled by people who came from the *Wiesenseite* of the Volga, including the villages of Herzog, Obermonjou, Graf, Marienthal, Rohleder and others. Many of the band members carry family names familiar to Volga Germans here in Kansas: Unrein, Kronewitter, Gerstner, Gassmann, Hertel, Leiker, and Leikam.

You'll have a chance to see quite a few more of the people and places associated with the Volga German population of today's Argentina when you attend the next chapter meeting on February 18. Frank Jacobs will give the program and has much to share from the trip he took to South America last summer.



Notes on the Pink Family, Pt. 1

How I met Victor Pink online

by Kevin Rupp

About two years ago I received an e-mail from a person who had seen my website while researching his family. His people had lived in Louis, Russia, until being deported to Siberia in 1941. The family eventually ended up in Kazakstan, where they lived until September of 1990, when all departed for Germany. The Pinks now reside in Gau-Heppenheim, which is located in the Rhineland-Palatinate area of Germany.

By e-mail, Victor Pink told me he was interested in the Pink, Kessler, and Graf families, so we began exchanging information regularly. When this past year Victor was able to obtain some records on his family from the Engels archives, he sent me a copy of them. After studying these

This is the family of Joseph Pink, Sr. in 1915. Seated are Margaretha (Graf) Pink, Joseph Pink, Sr. (b.1871), and Joseph's mother, Katharina (Becker) Pink (b. 1851). Behind Katharina stands an unnamed servant. Behind Joseph stands his daughter Klementina (b. 1901) in a white dress. The man wearing a hat is Joseph, Jr. (b.1897), and the girls on either side of Joseph, Sr. and Margaretha are their daughters Klara and Agnes.

documents, we found out that we had a common relative. His great-great grandfather, Joseph Pink, was married to Margaretha Graf, who turned out to be my great-great grandfather's sister. Just to cite a few names, his family tree includes people named Schiller, Pink, Schaefer, Wiesner, Schoenberger, Asselborn, Graf, Becker, Berns, and Bender. His relatives were residents of the colonies of Louis, Mariental, Rohleder, Graf, Kamenka and Liebental. In the upcoming issues of this newsletter, I hope to bring you more of their story.

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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