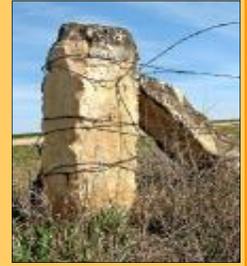




Sunflower Chapter NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2011

Vol. 15, Issue 5



“IT FELT LIKE HOMECOMING”

By Judy Hoffman



Leona Pfeifer and Olga Renner pose for a photo before the chapter meeting.

Olga Renner came to Hays in 2009 as an exchange student; one of her first impressions was how much it felt like a home-coming as she saw the Russian-Volga German influence in the cooking and dialect. Olga was born in Ubekistan, Russia in 1987. Her family moved to Germany in 1990 when she was 3 years old. She grew up in Northwest Germany; went to school in Essen where she had the opportunity to come to Hays as an exchange student.

Her grandparents were Tomas Renner, born 1927, and Magdalena Hecke, 1924, both from the Ukraine. They were German Catholic and spoke German. They followed the German armies to Germany when the Russians were coming. They walked all the way; two of their siblings died enroute. They settled in Berlin and in 1944 were given

a document declaring they were German citizens. This document proved crucial over 50 years later.

Most Volga Germans tried to hide their identity from the Russians. In 1944 her grandma's brother went to Canada and settled there.

Meanwhile, her grandpa Tomas' family was put in cattle cars by the Russians and sent to Siberia. There they had to complete building a factory. There were no tools and winter was approaching. That was where they lived for several years; it was very difficult.

On her mother's side, her grandfather, Christian, was born in 1928 in Schaffer, close to Ingals. Her grandmother, Lydia, was also born in Schaffer in 1929. They grew up there; had a farm and provided

well for themselves. As a young boy, Christian, along with his friends, would raid neighbors' gardens, stealing fruit and produce. One night they were caught and shot with a shotgun loaded with salt. They ran to the river and spent 3 hours there trying to clean out the salt from the wounds; it was very painful.

In the late 30's things got more difficult. Farmland was taken; quotas were set; everything was to be shipped to Ingals. Their church was confiscated for storage; they couldn't have services there anymore. When they slaughtered animals, they had to turn over the animal skins as part of their "rent".

The authorities came one day and took away her grandma's dad; he was never seen again and no one knew what happened to him.

In 1941 the government decided all Germans in Russia were plotting against the government. Within several weeks, 100,000 Germans were deported; they had to leave everything. They were taken by train to Siberia. On the journey they were fed once a day; there was no light, no hygiene. The train stopped once a day. The journey took several weeks and when they arrived they were left out in the middle of nowhere. Villagers who lived in the area didn't want to take them in. It was now August, 1941. The people dug caves to live in. They continued living in this area until 1956 without any rights, no travel allowed, no moving, no papers. They had to report to a provincial every 2 weeks. In the 1960's, conditions finally got better. For example, in 1950 her grandparents from Schaffer got married but were given no legal papers to that until 1956.

Continued on page 5...

Next Meeting

Dec. 11



Social & Open Library....11:30
Banquet.....12:00
Meeting 1:00
Program 1:15
Open Library2:30

WINTER PROGRAM

Christmas Program will follow the banquet in the Munjor church.

BANQUET

\$10.00 a plate - Call Dolores or Betty to make a reservation. See president's message for more info.

MUSIC

German Christmas Carols

CHAPTER LIBRARY

The library is open one hour before the meeting begins and roughly 1/2 hour after the program ends. Books may be checked out at the meeting and need to be returned at the following meeting. Shirley Brungardt, our Chapter Librarian, will be glad to help you with any of your questions. Donations are being taken for any books that you might like to see added to our library.

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER LIBRARY



JUST ADDED TO OUR LIBRARY.....

- ◆ 2011 Kansas State Round-up of AHSGR Chapters. October 22, 2011 hosted by the Golden Wheat Chapter in Wichita, Kansas at the Best Western Wichita North Hotel. Speakers include Tanja Shell and William Keel.



Eine Hochzeit in Ellis County

Fox Pavilion - Hays, Ks.

By Judy Hoffman



This past September was full of activities in Hays and provided entertainment opportunity and fun. Friday night, September 16, proved a particularly fun event for those who chose to enjoy a night of nostalgia, good food and great ambience. The Sunflower Chapter of Germans from Russia offered "Eine Hochzeit in Ellis County-1881", a DVD showing of a traditional Volga-German wedding in 1881, along with a traditional Volga-German buffet at the

Fox Theatre, downtown Hays. What a great treat it was to see on the big screen with such good sound effects that you could hear all the dialogue so well. As the narrative unfolded describing the traditions surrounding customs our ancestors always made sure were followed at local German weddings, we found ourselves recounting which ones were part of our own wedding ceremonies. And now we understood why they were so important. Also the favorite German songs that were part of the show soon had the audience singing along. Old favorites that we often still hear at weddings, like "Der Alte Schnapsen Baltzer"; and "Schoene Gute Nacht". The buffet meal was a culinary delight, serving up "Galushkis" (pigs in the blanket); wedding roast beef, creamed potatoes and dumplings, vegetables, German chocolate cake, drinks. The Fox folks really know how to do it up good as the tables were neatly set and service was great. Hopefully, another fun evening of food and entertainment will be offered again by the Sunflower Chapter.



This article was originally placed in the editorial page of the Hays Daily News following the event.

New Marker in Remembrance of First Ellis County Priest

By Oren Windholz



The Bohemian German Heritage Society and the Bukovina Society have exchanged speakers, research, and music at conventions and symposiums for some 20 years. Gary Wiltscheck, an officer of the BGHS, attended Oktoberfest 2011 in Hays and also took the opportunity to visit the grave site of Rev. Valentine Sommereisen, the first resident priest in Ellis County. He had recently been involved in the dedication of a historical marker in honor

of Rev. Sommereisen at the Church of St. Joseph in New Ulm, Minnesota on May 25, 2011. The marker states that Father Sommereisen ministered to a wide area in Minnesota, and was involved in Indian and military ministry. In 1871, he departed for the Dakota Territories. It states that, "On one occasion in 1873, he provided services as chaplain to General George Armstrong Custer on his Yellowstone Expedition." It went on to note his 1876 appointment to Hays, Kansas, and his burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Hays. He is buried in the Haffamier family plot. Michael Haffamier was a friend and administrator of Rev. Sommereisen's estate. Curiously his name appears as *Sommereison* on the grave marker.

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER BOARD

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AHSGR is now on
"Facebook"

facebook

Go to the AHSGR Website,
www.ahsgr.org, go down to the
bottom of the page and click on this
symbol and look for
"Become a Member"!

Chapter Members,

In September our chapter once again came together to help out at the annual VFW All You Can Eat Breakfast. This is one of two events we do in the fall to help finance out chapter and give some money to headquarters in Lincoln. Many thanks to all of you that were able to help out at that event.

The following Friday, our chapter sponsored a movie, "Ellis County Hochzeit in Ellis County" and a German meal at the Fox Pavilion. We had about 80 attendees.

September 26, our chapter and all the other Kansas Chapters got together for the Annual Round-Up of Kansas Chapters in Wichita. Once again we had a number of excellent speakers. Tanya Shell from Fargo, North Dakota and Bill Keel, Kansas State University, were our presenters. Both gave excellent programs; unfortunately, we did not have time to have them speak longer to the group.

It is time once again to renew your membership to AHSGR/Sunflower Chapter. I sent out a renewal letter to a good number of you about a month ago asking you that you please renew early and possible buy a membership for a family member. Jerry did receive a number of early renewals. For those of you who have not renewed, there is another form attached with this letter, so please fill it out and bring it with you to our next chapter meeting on December 11.

Speaking of our next chapter meeting. This is our annual Christmas meal which we also use as our last fundraiser of the year. Cost of the meal is \$10.00 per plate, remember this is a fundraiser for our chapter. The meal will include smothered steak/spare ribs with sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and gravy, spetzel, green beans, bread pudding, coffee and tea. To reserve a plate please call Dolores Pfannenstiel at 625-6452 or Betty Pfannenstiel at 625-6441 at least by Monday December 5. Dolores has requested that help is needed to prepare this meal. If anyone can help, please come to the Munjor Parish Hall on Saturday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m. Our chapter is so lucky to have such wonderful cooks. Please be sure to thank them for making this meal for us at our meeting.

Following our banquet we will then gather over at the Munjor church for a very special Christmas program. After the program we will return to the Hall and have our drawing.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kevin Rupp



Wir wuenschen euch ein

(We wish you a)

glueckliches Neues Jahr,

(Happy New Year)

ein langes Leben,

(a long life)

Gesundheit,

(good health)

Friede und Einigkeit,

(peace and goodwill)

und nach dem Tod,

(and after death)

die ewige Glueckseligkeit.

(eternal happiness)

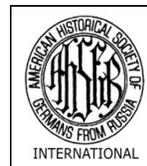
CONTRIBUTIONS TO AHSGR FROM ELLIS COUNTY, KS

THANK YOU to:

Robert E. & Pat Schmidt for their
\$350.00 donation to AHSGR. These
funds will be used toward the
enhancement of the AHSGR Website.

Kansas Round-Up \$500.00 donation

Sunflower Chapter \$1000.00 donation



A Watermelon Syrup Mystery Solved

By Sam Brungardt



During filming for the "Schmeckfest" video, the film crew watched Sam Brungardt (far right)

My name's Sam Brungardt, a Sunflower Chapter member who hardly ever makes it to the chapter's meetings or special events. Although I was reared near Emmeram (my parents are Lawrence and Alexia Brungardt), I have lived in St. Paul, Minnesota, for over 30 years. Nonetheless, I'm about as Volga German as anyone can be and I like to keep in touch with other Ellis County Volga Germans by being a long-distance Sunflower Chapter member.

My late dad, Lawrence Brungardt, grew up on a farm north of Gorham and our homeplace, a farm east of Emmeram formerly owned by the family of Penny Windholz. Dad's father, John J. Brungardt, was from Herzog, Russia, and his mother, Magdalena Mermis, grew up near Gorham. Grandma Brungardt's mother was a Bieker from Neu-Obermonjou, Russia (her folks settled in Schoenchen, Kansas) and her father, Anton Mermis Jr., was born in Herzog, Russia.

My mom grew up on a farm just west of Lost Canyon School. Her father, Alexander Herman, was from Herzog, Russia, and her mother, Elisabetha Haberkorn, was from Marienfeld, a daughter colony south of Pfeifer and Semenovka on the *Bergseite*. Grandma Herman's folks settled northwest of Pfeifer, Kansas, in the 1890s but later returned to Marienfeld, leaving their three oldest daughters, who were by then married, in Kansas. The *Haberkorn Letters* detail some of the horrors that the Haberkorns endured after they returned to Russia.

Many of you know my mom, Alexia, a former Sunflower Chapter member who is 92 and now lives at Sterling House of Hays. Mom always encouraged my interest in cooking and gardening. If the folks were in town after I came home from school, I'd often start supper after the evening chores were done. I have mom to thank for teaching me how to make many Volga German foods, and she was my main source for the Volga German recipes I contributed to the North Star Chapter's *Sei Unser Gast (Be Our Guest)* cookbook, which is in the Sunflower Chapter's library.

For years I've made pickled watermelon as well as watermelon syrup for my folks, siblings and a few cousins. We all enjoy the dilly, vinegary-sweet watermelon pickles, and the watermelon syrup is an essential ingredient of *Pefferniß*. Many of you undoubtedly

are familiar with these dark, spicy, sweet buns.

I don't exactly live in watermelon country, but over the years I got to know a farmer, Richard Tulip, who sells melons at the St. Paul Farmers Market. Each year about mid-September I ask him what the price would be for a dozen or more watermelons. We don't dicker, but he's come to know me as a good outlet for some of the melons that aren't all that popular with his other customers. Sometimes their rinds are not as pretty as those of other varieties, or their flesh as red as his picky customers demand. So, Richard quotes me a good price and I sweeten the deal by giving him a few jars of pickles made from melons I bought from him the year before. Although he didn't grow up eating it, he loves pickled watermelon, and says that once he opens a jar, he eats the whole quart in one sitting. I'd probably sweeten the deal with some watermelon syrup also, but Richard doesn't bake as I do.

Depending on the colony, the Volga Germans called watermelon syrup *Arbusensaft* (watermelon juice), *Arbusenhonig* (watermelon honey), *Latwerge* (sweet purée), *Schlecksel* (something that's lickable), and *Süßchen* (a little sweetening).

Grandma Herman and her sisters, Ami (Anna Maria) *Wäs* Dinkel and Susanna *Wäs* Stremel, made *Pefferniß* for every holiday. The only spice they used was finely ground black pepper, which they added with a heavy hand. Grandma knew the dough was spicy enough if she could detect the bite of the pepper when she tasted a bit of the dough. And her *Pefferniß* were spicy; we ate them slathered thickly with homemade butter, to help cool our mouths.

And it was Ami *Wäs* who discovered that whenever she ran out of watermelon syrup, she could make pretty good *Pefferniß* with green label Br'er Rabbit molasses.

Although Grandma Herman and my great aunts used watermelon syrup to make only *Pefferniß*, some of our neighbor ladies at Emmeram whose families came from Herzog, Russia, also used watermelon syrup to make a topping for *Dena Kuche'* (see page 130 of the *Sei Unser Gast* cookbook). (.....continues on page 7)

"It Felt Like Homecoming"Continued from page 1

Olga's mom, Valentina, was born in 1955; her dad, 1957. He ended up working in the factory his folks built. He was a shoemaker and still does shoe repairs. He did many things: got a little farm land, hunted, was a bee keeper and a lumberjack. In Siberia they received no education and couldn't speak Russian. They learned Russian while living there in Siberia but at home they continued to speak German.

For Christmas they walked from house to house, eating and drinking.

Her dad had to register for the military at age 16.

They didn't have churches in Siberia. They got together in homes. When her dad was in college, a professor advised him to quit church because it won't get him anywhere.

Old people were allowed in churches; the authorities refused to let young ones enter. Her family always considered themselves German; all those years, her parents kept saying they'd return to Germany. The document of 1944 came in play when they finally went back to Germany. They gained citizenship with no problem as a result of the document her mother kept all those years. Most of her parents' families have come to Germany now. One uncle and his family remain in Siberia and he barely speaks any German anymore.

Her parents do not regret the decision to move to Germany. Olga speaks German and English fluently; and some Russian as her parents still speak Russian at home. In Germany they study English from 3rd grade to graduation.

The second biggest minority group in Germany today is Germans from Russia; there was a huge migration from Russia to Germany after the Soviet Union fell. Olga hopes to stay here a few years yet and likely will return to Germany.

Letters from Russia to Ellis County

by Kevin Rupp

This letter was written in Herzog, from Balthaser Weigel. The article was taken from the Ellis County News, Hays, Kansas. The following letter will help you understand the terrible misery of relative and friends in Russia.

Herzog, Russia – Date of Paper January 19, 1922

Dear Brother-in-law and sister,

I take my pen in a trembling hand to write these lines to a foreign land.

We hope that his letter will find you all well, but we dare not say "is well as it let us" for we are not well. We are all suffering from hunger and hunger is a sickness and such a sickness that you cannot imagine it. We have not had a bite of bread for a whole year. I, myself am 71 years old and have seen many hard times but never anything that compares with this. Bread costs from ten to seventeen thousand rubbles the pound. How can a man but it? I was once a big and prosperous farmer but now I am worse off than a beggar was at that time. We have eaten all our live stock except one colt.

Please, oh please help us. Send us the aid you can and ask all our friends and relatives to contribute so we shall not have to starve. One year ago Herzog had 3000 inhabitants now it has 600. Whole families have died of hunger among them Ferdinand and Elizabeth. I could write a book about what I have experienced during the last few years but I cannot tell you now. If it should be God's holy will the time may yet come when my good friends in America will help me and my family to come to them, then I shall tell you all. Again, I beg you to help us so we shall not all have to starve.

You brother, Balthaser Weigel

A Watermelon Syrup Mystery SolvedContinued from page 4

They'd cook watermelon syrup, flour, and light cream together until the mixture became as thick as pudding. Once this cooled, it was spread on *Kuche*' dough that had been rolled out and laid into a flat pan. The *Kuche*' was then topped with *Streusel* (which Grandma called *Grimel* or *Riwel*), and baked.

For years I tried to figure out what the devil the "Dena" in "Dena Kuche" meant. Thanks to August Lonsinger's book, *Sachliche Volkskunde der Wolgadeutschen (Material Folks-culture of the Volga Germans)* I recently learned that in proper German *Dena Kuche*' is *duenne Kuchen* (thin Kuchen). It was called this because it was baked in a *Blechpfanne* (a flat pan, like a jelly roll pan).

Much to my surprise, I also learned from the Lonsinger book that the Volga Germans sometimes called a loaf of white bread *dicke Kuche*' (thick Kuchen) or simply *Kucha*'.

GENEALOGY TIPS

Obituary cards are still one of the most treasured forms of keepsakes from our loved ones after they have passed. These old cards provide a wealth of interesting information for those working on their genealogy. For example, this card shows that Matthias Pfannenstiel was born on 16 February 1856 in Mariental, Russia. He died on 2 January 1927 in Munjor, Kansas. To this day many Germans continue the practice of announcing the death of a family member by outlining the announcement or letter in black. We hope to have a program in the future on the Obituary/Memorial Card. Many of these cards can be found on the AHSGR SOAR website.



GERMAN-RUSSIAN TRADITIONS 74

by Lawrence Weigel

DAS CHRISTKIND

Dec 13, 1973
Ellis Co. S

The "Christ-Kind" is the traditional Christmas messenger who brought the tidings of Good Joy, and distributed Christmas gifts to German-Russian children both in Russia and here in America.

Jack Wilhm of the Hays Chamber of Commerce conceived the idea that this Christmas of 1973, the stores of Hays use the theme "Christmas Around the World". The merchants were asked to display in their windows, scenes of Christmas as it was celebrated in other countries. Civic organizations were asked to provide the scenes.

The AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) of Hays, chose as their project to re-create the "Christ-Kind" which was so well loved and known by the German-Russian people of Ellis County. The AARP came through with flying colors and provided an almost lifelike, inspiring "Christ-Kind". It is displayed in the "DOUBLE AA SPORTING GOODS STORE" at 1011 Main, in Hays.

"THE HISTORY OF THE CHRIST-KIND"

The tradition of the Christ-Kind dates back to the middle of the seventeenth century in Germany. In ancient German folklore there was the good fairy known as Mother Holle, and no doubt this inspired the tradition of the Christ-Kind. The Volga Germans, as well as the Odessa Germans who lived in the Black Sea region of Russia, brought this custom with them from their native Germany. The custom was not only faithfully kept by the Catholics, it was also widely adopted by the Lutheran communities.

A young woman played the part of the Christ-Kind. She was dressed in a white gown or robe, and had a blue or red sash around her waist. Her face was covered with a muslin veil which also covered her head. She carried a sack under her gown filled with nuts and candy which were given to the children. The gifts of toys were generally carried in a basket by "helpers" who were older members of the household. When the children heard a bell it was a sign that she was coming.

Christmas Eve was always a great occasion. The children looked forward with great anticipation to the coming of the Christ-Kind. If the sun would set with a bright red glow during the week before Christmas, the children were told that the Christ-Kind was baking cookies for all those children who had obeyed their parents.

Among some of the German-Russians it was customary to expect the Christ-Kind to come on a donkey. There were no donkeys available on the steppes of Russia, so where this custom was practiced, several boys acted as a donkey by disguising themselves in a donkey costume. In these places where the donkey was traditional, a bundle of hay was placed on the ground by the children during the day, so that the donkey would have something to eat.

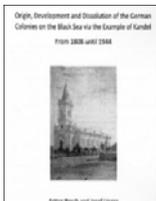
Sometimes, the Christ-Kind also carried a twig and would pass out a little punishment for those who had not been good. Generally, however, she played the role of a fairy who came as a messenger of the Christchild.

The one who the children really feared, and who came to the house a short time after the Christ-Kind left, was "Der Belznicklos". Many a person in Ellis County can tell you about this character.....who was also a part of the Christmas custom.

(Next week we will tell you about him)

Lawrence Weigel wrote over 200 articles on the German-Volga Traditions that were printed in the Ellis County Star Newspaper from 1972-1976. Upon the death of Lawrence Weigel in 2005, his family gave the Sunflower Chapter of AHSGR of Hays permission to once again print these articles for our newsletter and to one day reprint a book of these interesting articles.

NEW ITEMS FROM HEADQUARTERS



AHSGR's Newly Published Book on German Colonies Offers Insights

AHSGR has just published a book that has been translated from German into English on the German colonies in the Black Sea region. Many thanks go to Tim Geiger who initiated and supported the efforts to translate this book and bring it to publication. It is highly recommended reading for those interested in the history of the German colonies in the Russian Empire, and while its locale is in the Black Sea region, it has relevancy for those whose ancestors settled in the Russian Empire regardless of the area in which they lived.

Book Review: *Origin, Development, and Dissolution of the German Colonies on the Black Sea via the Example of Kandel from 1808 until 1944* by Anton Bosch and Josef Lingor

Reviewer: Jerome Siebert

This book traces the history of the people and villages established by German colonists in the Black Sea area beginning in the early 1800s until 1944 using the village of Kandel and neighboring villages as examples. It is an attempt to provide insights into all aspects of economic, religious, and cultural life from the immigration into the area through

the highs and lows of World War I, the Civil War, and Stalin's persecution during and after World War II. It describes various events and achievements focusing on people in Kandel and emphasizing people who were instilled with an undaunted pioneering spirit, and who were diligent, hardworking, and deeply rooted in the language and culture of the old homeland of Germany.

From the colonies' origins to the height of their development, and then to eventual decline and dissolution through events that changed the political and economic landscape and environment, the book details the impacts on the lives of the colonists and provides insight into their unyielding spirit and quest to succeed and overcome adversity. However, in the end, the village ceased to exist with their inhabitants dispersed in many parts of Siberia, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, East and West Germany, the United States, and Canada. However, the colonists' achievements assisted Russia in becoming a huge empire, making it possible to achieve the status of a world power. These accomplishments are notable as a tribute to their energy and hard work. Whether someone has roots in the Black Sea area or is interested in German-Russian history, the book provides interesting insights.

Certified translation by Ilona Richey. Translation edited by Ted J. Becker (2008). Editing and layout for AHSGR by Dr. Jerome Siebert (2010)

 *SOAR* 
Saving Our Ancestral Records

Find **SOAR** at our website ahsgr.org. Click on the **SOAR** button and begin your voyage of discovery!

SOAR has:

Over 400,000 individual documents pertaining to

- birth
- death
- marriage
- immigration
- confirmation
- other life events of Germans from Russia
- reference works



AHSGR has the largest genealogical library for Germans from Russia in the world and a commanding Internet presence.



INTERNATIONAL

8th Annual AH\$GR New Membership Campaign started at the Salt Lake City, Utah Convention

**New Members are Critical to the Continued Success of AH\$GR
Every Member Counts - Talk to Family and Friends
Buy a Gift Membership**

ABOVE AND BEYOND

This Membership Campaign is designed to reward AH\$GR members (individuals) and chapters who recruit a sufficient number of new members for AH\$GR or purchase gift memberships for new members. The campaign began August 6, 2011 and ends May 15, 2012. Cash prizes will be awarded at the 2012 Portland, Oregon Convention to be held June 12 - 17. Membership Data Forms are available at Chapters or on-line at <http://www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm>

- **\$100 to the AH\$GR member AND \$200 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the highest number of new members**
- **\$75 to the AH\$GR member AND \$150 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 2nd highest number of new members**
- **\$50 to the AH\$GR member AND \$100 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 3rd highest number of new members**
- **All New Members who join during the campaign period will have their name placed “in the hat” for a drawing. A \$25 cash prize will be awarded at Convention to 3 lucky new members.**

79% of New Members Join Because Someone Asked Them

**With Your Help, We Will Move Our Membership
“Above and Beyond” to Assure the Future of AH\$GR**

See the reverse side for a Membership Data Form – Copy and Recruit



2012 SUNFLOWER CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM

Member's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
E-mail _____ **Phone** _____

Birth date: Month _____ Day _____ Year (optional) _____ German-Russian Heritage Yes ___ No ___

Ancestral Names (Self) _____

Ancestral Villages (Spouse) _____

Spouses Name _____ **Spouses Maiden Name** _____

Birth date: Month _____ Day _____ Year (optional) _____ German-Russian Heritage Yes ___ No ___

Newsletter: ___ By e-mail; ___ By Postal Mail; ___ Both

DUES: Renewal _____ New Member _____ Dues for year 20____

Date Paid _____ Check # _____ Cash _____

Privacy Option: ___ Check here if you do NOT want your information published to others in the Society. (Clues/GED List)

You must be a member of the International Organization (AHSGR) before joining the local Sunflower Chapter.

_____ \$60.00 Individual / Family or _____ Pro-rated Dues (This includes national & local dues)

_____ \$10.00 Local Dues Only (International Dues have already been paid to headquarters)

_____ I am a Life Member

Membership dues for **new members** are prorated throughout the calendar year.

Prorated annual National and Local dues are as follows: Jan. 1 - June 30: \$60.00; July 1 - Dec. 31: \$30.00

Membership renewals are due by January 1

Discounted Life Membership

Year of Birth _____	
___ Ages 26 - 40	\$950
___ Ages 41 - 55	\$800
___ Ages 56 & older	\$650

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL RENEWALS FOR
LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL TO OUR

TREASURER:
Jerry Braun
2223 Felten Dr.
Hays, Ks. 67601

Areas of Interest:

We are always looking for more help in our chapter. Please mark your areas of interest:

Program _____ Newsletter Information _____ Publicity _____ Genealogy _____
 Hospitality _____ Help w/VFW Breakfast _____ Clean-up _____ Folklore _____
 Misc. _____

How did you hear about AHSGR? Website ___ Facebook ___ Magazine Ad ___
Society Visit ___ Other _____

Name of referring Chapter or Member: _____

UNSERE LEUTE IM BILD - 2011 Kansas Round-up of Chapters

*Tanja Shell gives her presentation,
"Researching one's own past: history research
interests of the Germans Russian community in
today's Germany"*



*Dr. William Keel gives another outstanding
program to the 2011 Kansas Round-Up,
"German Heritage of Kansas."*

About 50 members of the Kansas AHSGR Chapters attended the October 22 Kansas Round-Up in Wichita, Kansas. Speaker presentations, time for genealogy, fundraising and fellowship filled the day.

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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Inside THIS NEWSLETTER

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- 3... From the President
- 4... A Watermelon Syrup Mystery Solved
- 5... It Felt Like Homecoming, continued
- 5....Letters from Russia
- 5....A Watermelon Mystery, continued
- 5....Genealogy Tips
- 6... German-Volga Traditions
- 7... New Items from AHSGR
- 7....SOAR
- 8... Above & Beyond
- 9... 2012 Sunflower Chapter Membership
- 10...Unserer Bild