



Sunflower Chapter NEWSLETTER

Hays, Kansas

Summer 2015



Vol. 19 Issue 3



Chapter Meetings



Aug. 9

The Sunflower Chapter of AHSGR, Hays, Kansas group meets four - five times a year at Munjor, Kansas in the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall, unless otherwise noted in the Chapter Newsletter. Munjor, Kansas was one of the six original Volga-German villages that was founded in August of 1876 from a group of settlers that came from the Volga River seeking a new life on the Kansas prairie.

Social Time

11:30pm - 12:30pm

Refreshments or Pot Luck Meal depending on the Event

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Chapter Meeting

~ 1:30 pm

Program

2:00 - 3:30pm (roughly)

Program and Important Dates

Sunday, August 9, 2015

Chapter Summer "picnic" with program

Sunday, September 14, 2015

VFW Breakfast Chapter Fund-raiser

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 3, 2015

Kansas Round-Up of Chapters
Whiskey Creek, 8:00am - 8:00pm

Sunday, December 13, 2015

Chapter Christmas Meeting.

Chapter Website

www.sunflowerchapterofahsgr.net

BRENT MAI VISITS THE LAND OF THE VOLGA GERMANS

by Kevin Rupp



While the American Historical Society of German from Russia, AHSGR, hosted the 464th Annual International Convention in Billings, Montana, Ellis and Russell Counties hosted a weekend long event to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Husaren and Kamenka, Russia.

Brent Mai, Director of the Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS), Valerie Miller, CVGS volunteer coordinator, from Portland, Oregon and Fabian Zubia-Schultheis from Buenos Aires, Argentina Volga-German researcher, Argentina arrived in Hays on Thursday, July 16 to tour the six Volga-German colonies of Rush and Ellis County. We were able to spend all day touring the villages and each cemetery that was attached to each village. This was the first time that Valerie and Fabian had seen the villages and were very impressed by the churches and the culture that was still present in each village.

Friday, Brent, Fabian, and Valerie proceeded to visit the outlying towns includ-

ing Walker and those near the Russell area. That evening they arrived back in Hays for a homemade Ellis County Volga-German meal. Followed by an evening of discussing research.

Saturday started early in Russell, Kansas with a Mai family reunion and a history lesson on the Volga-Germans, specifically those from the village of Holstein. The evening wrapped up with a traditional "Hochzeit" with Gerry & Terry Batt and company providing live music for the dance.

Sunday was time to move the celebration over to Hays where close to 50 people participated in a afternoon of informative discussion on the village of Husaren & Kamenka. But first, we all had a delicious traditional Volga-German meal prepared by Pam Burgardt.

Following the meal, Brent began his presentation on the villages with the history of their founding. Many of the people who came from Kamenka settled in Topeka, Kansas with others settling in Ellis County, in particular. Pfeifer, Kansas.

Those additional topics discussed during the day were:

- ◆ *Introduction of the Volga-Germans*
- ◆ *Settlement on the Kansas Prairie*
- ◆ *1941 Deportation of the Volga-Germans.*

Fabian presentation was on *the Volga-Germans of Argentina and Brazil*. Each lasted approximately 40 minutes which contained photos and discussion.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that all enjoy the changes to the newsletter. The newsletter is going through a process to be more reader friendly. I hope to have regular features such as "Folk Songs of Our Forefathers", and "Das Essen", which would include recipes.

A lot has been going on in the past month and a lot more will be coming this fall as you can see by the different items in the newsletter.

I want to thank a number of people who help with the different articles this edition. Alex Herzog is always so gracious in sending me articles that he has translated from other publication to be included in our newsletter. Michael Frank from the Portland Oregon Chapter is another contributor to this newsletter, which I am very thankful. I hope that you will enjoy these articles. Sam Brungardt one of our home-boys has supplied with articles in the past.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, August 9th in Munjor. We will have our annual Chicken Dinner, so please **RSVP NO LATER THEN MONDAY, AUGUST 3** for the meal. We will have two fantastic speakers so please be sure to come and bring a dessert with you!!! The VFW Breakfast tickets will be available at the meeting. Our breakfast is Sunday, September 13. Please make sure that you sign up at the meeting if you are planning to help with the VFW breakfast. At our latest board meeting it was decided to start video taping of our speakers. The money that we make from various fundraisers including the breakfast will help to pay for these recordings. The Liebenthal meeting was reordered and DVD's will be made available for purchase.

Thank you to all who came, July 19th, for the informative program by Brent Mai and speaker Fabian Zubia-Schultheis from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Brent informed me that another such event will be held next year to celebrate those colonies who will also be celebrating 250 years of their founding, many of those with connections to Ellis County.

On the week of September 15-20, Ellis County will host Bishop Joseph Werth from Novosibirsk, Russia. The Bishop visited Hays a number of years ago and was a great event for the Volga-Germans in the County. There will be a public gathering after the 5:00pm Mass on September 19 in Victoria. Watch the paper, facebook and other outlets for more information.

The Hays Oktoberfest will be on Friday, October 2nd at the Municipal Park. The tapping of the keg will begin at 11:30p.m. In the evening there will be a gathering of early attendees of the Kansas Round-Up of chapters at Whiskey Creek in Hays. This is a wonderful time for visiting, exchange genealogy and just finding out what's new. The "invitations" to the Kansas Round-Up will be mailed in early September. Registration needs to be in by September 19th to Denise in Topeka. Thanks to the Topeka Chapter who will be the host this year in Hays. Don't forget the date, Saturday, October 3, the day after the Oktoberfest. See the poster in this newsletter for more information. We will NOT have a meeting in October because of the Round-Up.

In October I will attend the AHSGR Board of Directors meeting. I have not been able to attend the last two meetings so I am excited to go back to see many friends.

So, there is a lot happening these next few weekends and months and I hope many of you will be there to join in on the fun. See you all Sunday, August 9 in Munjor!

Kevin Rupp

BISHOP JOSEPH WERTH RETURNS TO ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS



Volga German **Bishop Joseph Werth** from Novosibirsk, Siberia, and his brother, **Father Klemens Werth** from Moscow, will be in Ellis County, Kansas **September 15 - 20** to visit friends from their earlier visits and perhaps meet some new friends.

The general public will have an opportunity to meet them **September 19 at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening Mass in the Basilica of St. Fidelis** (the Cathedral of the Plains) at Victoria. A reception will follow the Mass elsewhere in Victoria.

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER OF AHSGR VFW BREAKFAST

Sunday, September 13, 2015
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

All You Can Eat Breakfast

Tickets will be available at the
August 9th meeting and at
St. Joseph Parish Office

CHAPTER MEMBERS, we need
Your help to be host and hostess.
Please sign up at the
August 9th meeting.



SUNFLOWER CHAPTER ANNUAL "PICNIC"

*Sunflower chapter is hosting the annual "Picnic" and
program on Sunday, August 9th at the
Munjoy Parish Hall.*

*A chicken meal will be provided
members are asked to bring desserts.*

***Those attending the meal MUST RSVP
no later than Monday, August 3rd
by 5:00 p.m. NO RSVP's will be taken
for the meal after that time.
Please call Kevin at 785-656-0329
to RSVP with a number.***

Speakers for the program include:

*Sr. Alice Ann Pfeifer - "Conversations With the Elders"
and
Dr. James Leiker - "The Changing Village - Antonino, Ks."*

Social - 11:30am - 12:30pm

Meal: 12:30pm - 1:15?pm

Program: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE.....

THE VILLAGE OF LIEBENTHAL WAS NUMBER ONE by Judy Hoffman

The sunflower decided at one of their board meetings to have a Chapter meeting once a year at one of the original Volga-German Villages. Each meeting would consist of the history of the parish and time for people from that village to speak about their life in the village. These would then be digitally taped for DVD's to be archived for future programs. The first village is Liebenthal, Kansas on April 26, 2015



Seven villages were founded in the Ellis County area of central Kansas by Germans from Russia who immigrated from the Volga River area in Russia. The first village was Liebenthal, located near the northern edge of Rush County. All the other villages are in Ellis County.

Our local history lesson began in historic St. Joseph's Church in Liebenthal, a tiny community that is still home to many townfolk descended from the first settlers. Thus, in the Church, Louise Dechant addressed the members and guests of the Sunflower Chapter of Germans from Russia, giving a brief history of the parish buildings and the settlement from its founding to the present day.

The first group left Russia on October 24, 1875 and arrived in Baltimore on November 23, 1875. Those who settled Liebenthal were in the second group to leave Russia. They arrived in Topeka, Ks on November 28, 1875. They remained there for a few months; some finding jobs while some of the older men traveled around to find a place to settle. They came to Hays on Feb. 20, 1876 on the Kansas Pacific Railroad (which later became the Union Pacific). The next day they began to build sod houses and dug outs where Liebenthal now stands. As soon as the men had finished building shelters, they brought their wives and children from Hays to the new Liebenthal. This was Feb. 22, 1876.

According to Father Stollenwork, (who was pastor from 1899 to 1931) the family heads measured out places to build their houses. Sufficient building material was found in nearby Big Timber Creek. Jacob Herrman owned the land. A land agent sold 40 acres to Peter Herrman, 80 acres to Jacob Herrman, and 320 acres to Johannes Schaffer. The first house was built by Jacob Herrman and sons John, Jacob and Martin. It was built partly in the ground, about 12 feet by 16 feet in size, and ready for occupancy in one day. That was possibly the first dugout completed on Feb 20 or 21.

The original settlers included 14 families, 60 people and the names and sizes of families were:

Jacob Herrman, (8); Peter Herrman (3); John Schaffer (5); Martin Goetz (2); Peter Beil (3); Adam Kreutzer (6); Joseph Schoenberger (4); John Kreutzer (4); John Herrman (5); Jacob Beil (4). A few weeks later, 5 other Liebenthal, Russia families arrived: John Legleiter, Michael Legleiter, Peter Schaffer, John P. Schaffer and Joseph Schoenberger.

Since there was no church, the settlers fashioned a wooden cross and the entire community gathered for devotions on Sundays and Holy Days. This cross was erected north east of the present church. The practice of praying at the cross continued until about 1879. Rev. Adolph Wibbert was the first priest to visit the colonies. He was stationed at Salina (about 90 miles away) and visited Fort Hays in March of 1878, saying Mass in a barrack. The residents of Liebenthal drove to Hays to attend Mass. Fr. Wibbert said the first Mass in Liebenthal in April, 1876 and from then on, Mass was offered on the fourth Monday of each month. Mass was held in the open air as there still was no church.

Another much larger group of immigrants from the Volga region arrived on July 8, 1876. They were from Schoenchen, Russia.

On December 8 a town meeting was held and St. Joseph's Mission was organized. Their first church committee comprised: Nicholas Beiker, John Dreher, John Schaffer, and John Beiker. The building of the first church began in April, 1877; it was 28 feet by 48 feet and

completed in October at a cost of \$200. It was the first stone church building in the Kansas settlement. The limestone rock for it was quarried from land just east of Liebenthal. John Schaffer donated 40 acres of land where the present church and school now stand. Peter Herrman directed the construction of the church. Father Joseph Hardes was appointed the first resident pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in 1884.

The first rectory was built in 1889 and the first parochial school was built in 1897. On August 16, 1899 Rev. Rudolph Stollenwork was named pastor.

In 1901 the parish celebrated their 25th anniversary with 85 families and 500 parishioners. That year they also started building a new church, the present day structure. Its dimensions were: 148 feet by 56 feet; the roof 60 feet high and the steeple 150 feet tall. Rev. Stollenwork supervised the building of the church in order to save the high cost of hiring a contractor. All the stone work was done by Liebenthal people. A total of 2,260 loads of stone quarried from the rock formation east of Liebenthal and 600 loads of sand were used. The estimated cost at completion was \$75,000 which was an unheard of sum for that time in Western Kansas. The stained glass windows were made by German artists and imported from Germany at a cost of \$2,000. On Thanksgiving Day, 1902 the cornerstone was laid by Bishop Hennesy of Wichita. On May 28, 1905 St. Joseph's Church was dedicated.

In April and May of 1877 there was some dissension between some of the families from the Schoenchen group and the Liebenthal group which resulted in the new town of Schoenchen, along the Smokey River. There we also have the story of the original church bell of St. Joseph's somehow ending up in Schoenchen.

In 1905 the Dominican sisters arrived to teach in the parochial school. A new rectory was built in 1910. In 1917w new stone schoolhouse was completed at a cost of \$25,000.

On Monday, August 13, 1917 disaster struck. A fire destroyed the rectory and the church. The origin of the fire was thought to be spontaneous combustion in the coal and kindling room in the rectory which quickly spread to the church which

had wooden shingles. The estimated loss was \$100,000. Father Stollenwork was able to rescue the Blessed Sacrament from the church and brought it to the home of John Schmidt. Insurance on the church was \$20,000 and the rectory \$12,000.

Mass now was celebrated in the school. Rebuilding started in 1919. Each family agreed to donate 6 days of labor to tear down and haul away the debris from the rectory and dig a new foundation and basement. Each family also supplied 2 loads of sand and 3 blocks of native stone. They also donated 5% or 5 bushels of wheat for each 100 bushels harvested. The rectory was completed at a cost of \$15,000.

In 1921 the church rebuilding was completed at a cost of \$75,000. It was dedicated on Tuesday, Nov. 8 by Bishop Schwertner. Also that day, 210 young people were confirmed.

St. Joseph's parish was blessed with 5 native priests: Rev. John Moeder, Msgr. George Herrman, Rev. Jacob J. Dreher, Msgr. George Schmidt and Rev. Gilbert Herrman.

In 1922 the Liebenenthal Council of the Knights of Columbus was organized. In 1933 the Lourdes Grotto was built.

Tragedy struck again, unbelievably, in early morning (about 2am) on December 27, 1959. St. Joseph's Church was again destroyed by fire. It was a night of a severe blizzard. Christmas lights strung up to the steeple shorted out in the high winds. Everything inside was lost. Only 4 walls and the steeple remained. The beautiful altars and hand carved Bavarian wood work, the stained glass windows, everything - lost.

Once again, Mass was celebrated in the auditorium of the school. Parishioners decided again to rebuild. This began in 1960. It took two years and about \$190,000 to rebuild. The present structure is not what used to be. There was not enough money to purchase stained glass windows and imported carved altars and other decor. It was built with the style of the 60's.

July, 1976, Liebenenthal celebrated its cen-

tennial. The celebration lasted a week at which time the very first parade was held in Liebenenthal. Celebrations then were held at the other founded villages: Schoenchen, Pfeifer, Munjor, Catherine, and Herzog (present day Victoria). Celebrations ended in Hays as it was also the 200th anniversary of our country.



Interior of St. Joseph Church

Five priests are buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery: Rev. Wenzel Birzer,; Rev. William Paul; Rev. Rudolph Stollenwork, Msgr. George Herrman, Msgr. A.B. Dziemian.

Another interesting piece of history: Many years ago the Nativity scene which was displayed at St. Joseph's was taken to the Precious Blood convent in Wichita where it was displayed for a long time. But they noticed that pieces of the nativity scene were disappearing. So they packed it up and stored it. When Sister Cornelia Werth (an native of Liebenenthal) came across the boxes, she immediately said "this needs to go back home!". We were delighted to have them back. There were many pieces and it was a puzzle about how to set

it up. These figurines were all hand carved of special wood by Bavarian artists. Many still have the date marked on them. They were made to set to motion by water. The complete diagram and instructions were included. After going through all the boxes, Elenora Moeder and Louise Dechant had several shelves built in a display area at the back of the church and set up the display. But without the final touch of running water. It is on permanent display behind a locked glass door.

LOCAL LORE OF LIEBENTHAL

In a sort of "open mic" forum, those who had stories to share of the early days of Liebenenthal through their family history, were invited to share them to help get a human interest side of this tiny town on the Kansas prairie.

The first speaker was Mary Ann Randa who was born and raised here, and spent most of her life here. Her great grandfather Jacob Herrman Sr. and his brother Henry owned a lot of acreage around the creek by Liebenenthal. They took a walk every day. One day they found someone who had died. They decided to donate land up on the hill outside town for a cemetery. They buried the man there; it was before 1880. They also put a little tombstone. That is how the cemetery started.

Mary Ann's dad, Bernard Herrman, (1902-1973) was the organist here. He was also the school principal. At one time, there were 293 students. Every year he had a picnic for the students at the end of the school year. In 1968 the school was closed even though it still had 63 students. Bernard had to go get fruit from commodities for the students; Mary Ann helped with this. Then the students would get the fresh fruit at the end of the school day. She also remembers going with her dad to church for daily Mass where he played the organ. She was so privileged because she was too young to do the farm chores.

G.T. Barnes mentioned that some Ransom people also were buried in the Liebenenthal cemetery because they didn't have a cemetery yet.

Leonard Schoenberger's great grandfather was one of the first founders. In those days, there were many families with somewhere in the range of 20 children. Joseph had 21 children; his son had 23 children. There were 5 sets of twins. Leonard's grandfather was the third son of Joseph and was born here in 1877. When they came from Hays in February of 1876, they got their cattle (14) and just when they arrived here at Liebenenthal a blizzard hit. The families had to live in 3 dugouts until the blizzard was over. Imagine how brave his great grand father was to travel out of Russia to Germany to the U.S. on the USS Ohio. Great-grandmother Schoendahler came a year later. They lived in the last house on the east side of the street, by the highway. Anna was the youngest girl. She had

type 1 diabetes; it was a killer. She died at age 26. Elizabeth Schaffer was Leonard's great grandmother. Leonard's grandfather died in the out house. True story. He had a heart attack and fell against the door. They had to take the door off to get him out. John Schaffer's house was further out, by pasture land. It was torn down only a few years ago. Leonard has a stone from the house when it was demolished. Leonard brought articles from Russia to display that have been handed down : a statue and a rosary. Leonard came



Mary Ann Randa

to help Sal Herrman's father shingle the roof. Sal was Leonard's friend. Sal gave him a tobacco chew; then Leonard slipped on a shingle and swallowed the chew. It was one of the few times he couldn't eat lunch; he was sick for a week. Leonard's father started an annual Easter egg hunt. They have carried on that family tradition, celebrating this year the 78th anniversary of the annual event.

Leonard's grandparents ended up living in a farm house by Ellis. As a child, Leonard stayed with them while his parents went to Colorado. Leonard and his brother sat on the porch, crying. Then grandpa challenged them to a foot race; winner would get 25 cents. Of course, grandpa won. His grandpa liked to tell stories, and sometimes you couldn't be sure it was fact - or fiction. He told of coming in a wagon. He fell out of the wagon, but it kept going. He had to run to catch up and not be left behind.

His grandma had real long hair, past the knees. There were 6 boys and 5 girls. The boys slept outside in the summer. One time the boys raided the cellar looking for a snack and found what they thought was chocolate candy. But instead, it was x-lax. They just couldn't tell grandpa, but it took days to get over it.

Viola (Herrman) Depperschmidt grew up around here. She lived on a farm northwest of Liebenthal and walked to school a lot. There was a path worn through the pastures to the school. After school many would start out walking together, then split off to their farm homes.. When they

did get a ride to town, her dad let them off at Dechant's store. You could see people coming from all over to go to Mass. The church was full. There was daily Mass. Confession was at 3pm on Saturday. Some went weekly; some monthly. Five times a year there were processions. On Palm Sunday, Rogation days (3 days of processions, praying the rosary); Corpus Christi (the girls wore white dresses, there was Benediction at various houses, and the choir sang hymns). They walked to the cemetery for funerals; to them, praying was important.

Growing up, there were the dust storms. We took the cows out as far as our land went, for the cows to eat along the "fence rows" to save on the rest of the pasture land and allow the grass to grow more. Our ancestors worked hard to build the fences with stone posts they quarried.

Sometimes we got a free day to have ball games with neighboring towns. The teams would pile on back of a truck to go to the games. There were still out houses at the school until 1935, the year Viola started school. Kids carried their lunches in Karo syrup buckets. The girls wore dresses and long brown stockings; the boys wore overalls.

In 1894 the people asked the Bishop to send a priest to Liebenthal because when the Smokey Hill River was up, they couldn't go to Hays for Mass. They got a priest.

Very few people had phones. Viola's family had one. Mama would only use it to order gas. Only 7 times was it used for another purpose. Imagine that!



Leonard Schoenberger

Also bodies were kept in the homes when someone passed away. The men would stay and pray all night.

When the Sears catalog came, her mama would check for coupons. Then one of the kids was sent to put the catalog in the out house.

Everyone had a shoe repair "kit". Pieces of leather to re-sole shoes, and other necessary tools.

Even during prohibition, everyone knew where to get booze. In the 1930's some families went to Colorado to work in the fields, harvesting sugar beets and other crops. Even the kids worked. When they came back in the fall, they could speak Spanish. Viola found herself wishing she could speak it too.

Right before grandma Herrman died, (May, 1935) she talked of the rabbit drive. She would watch the kids while the adults put up a big fence. Then armed with clubs, they walked side by side, chasing the rabbits to the fence and then, clubbing them. They were sold and shipped off. The cottontails were eaten; the jack rabbits sold off. The rabbit was good meat. It was made into sausage. The carcass was boiled in a wash tub. The broth given to the chickens, the bones to the dogs.

At play, sometimes her smaller sister would curl up in a tire and they'd roll her down a hill. Many young men in the community became stone cutters because of the limestone quarry near here and the building projects. The women all wore aprons and bonnets when working outside. The aprons protected the dress, kept it clean longer. Viola's great-grandpa Jacob Herrman built the first house in Liebenthal. He was 9 years old when they came here. Her grandpa was Henry.



Viola Depperschmidt

Volga-German Villages Mileage Charts by Michael Frank

I have produced two Volga-German village mileage charts, each in spreadsheet format. One chart reflects distances between villages on the Bergseite (hilly side) and one chart reflects distances between villages on the Wiesenseite (meadow side).

Bergseite Villages

(west of the Volga):

Alexandertal, Anton, Balzer, Bauer, Beideck, Degott, Dietel, Dobrinka, Dönhof, Dreispitz, Erlenbach, Frank, Frank Khutor, Franzosen, Freidorf (Khutor), Galka, Göbel, Grimm, Holstein, Huck, Huckertal (Khutor), Husaren, Hildmann, Hussenbach, Josefstal, Kamenka, KAMYSHIN, Kautz, Köhler, Kolb, Kraft, Kratzke, Kutter, Leichtling, Marienfeld, Merkel, Messer, Moor, Mueller, Neu-Balzer, Neu-Dönhof, Neu-Messer, Neu-Moor, Neu-Norka, Neu-Straub, Norka, Oberdorf, Pfeifer, Pobochnaya, Propp (Khutor), Rosenberg, Rothammel, **SARATOV, SAREPTA**, Shcherbakovka, Schilling, Schuck, Schwab, Semenowka, Sewald, Stephan, Unterdorf, **VOLGOGRAD (Stalingrad)**, Volmer, Walter, Walter Khutor, Wiesenfeld, and Yagodnaya Polyana.

Wiesenseite Villages

(east of the Volga):

Ährenfeld, Alexander-Höh, Alt-Weimar, Alt-Zürich, Bangert, Basel, Beckerdorf, Bettinger, Biberstein, Blumenfeld am Belaya Cuba, Blumenfeld am Mius, Blumenheim, Boaro, Brander, Brunntal, Chasselois, Dehler, Dinkel, Eckheim, Enders, Erlenbach, Fischer, Frankreich, Friedenberg, Friedenfeld, Frösental, Gnadendorf, Gnadefeld, Gnadeflur, Gnadentau, Graf, Grüntal, Herzog, Hoffental, Hoffnung, Hölzel, Hummel, Isenburg, Jost, Kana, Karaman, Karlsberg, Katharinenstadt, Katherinental, Kind, Konstantinovka, Krasnoyar, Kukkus, Langenfeld, Laub, Lauwe, Lessnoj, Liebental, Lilienfeld, Louis, Luzern, Lysanderhöh, Marienberg, Marienburg, Mariental, Meinhard(t) (Unterwalden), Mitteldorf, Moor (Wiesenseite), Morgentau (am Mius), Morgentau (am Belaya Cuba), Müllersfeld, Náb, Neu-Galka, Neu-Hussenbach, Neu-Obermonjou, Neu-Schilling I, Neu-Schilling II, Neu-Schönfeld, Neu-Warenburg, Neu-Weimar, Neu-Yagodnaya-Polyana, Nieder-Monjou, Ober-Monjou, Orlovskaya, Ostenfeld, Paulskoye, Preuss, Reinhard(t), Reinwald, Reinwald (2), Rohleder, Rosendamm, Rosenfeld am Jeruslan, Rosenfeld am Nachoi, Rosenheim, Rosental am Jeruslan, **SAMARA, SARATOV, SAREPTA**, Schaffhausen, Schilling, Schönchen, Schöndorf, Schönfeld, Schöntal, Schulz, Schwed, Seelmann, Stahl am Karaman, Stahl am Tarlyk, Strassburg, Strassendorf, Straub, Streckerau, Susannental, Ur-

bach, **VOLGOGRAD (Stalingrad)**, Warenburg, Weizenfeld, Wiesenmüller, Wittman, Zug, and Zürich.

There are many more Wiesenseite villages not shown on the spreadsheet. Many are obscure 'daughter' villages or Khutors (farmsteads) where populations were very small. If your village is not on the list, please contact me. Distances are shown in miles, miles (to the tenth of a mile), Kilometers, and Versts, each on separate sheets. Each mileage cell (miles) is calculated to two decimal positions.

Clicking on the Village Name gives you information about the village from the Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. Some of these web pages contain photos of village landmarks, some contain military maps showing village layout and nearby topography.

Included also are more precise GPS coordinates to zero in on specific major intersections in each village. From these more precise coordinates, the distances between villages is calculated (as the crow flies). Each village GPS coordinate can be copy/pasted into Google Earth to give an idea what each village looks like today from above.

There are also additional fields listed which give information such as 1910 (or thereabouts) population, Russian name of Village in English and Cyrillic, village religious denomination, founding date, and grid coordinates on the Stumpp map.

These two charts represent several months of work identifying Volga German villages. Each

set is encrypted with a unique security code. The files are sent via e-mail.

The two files can be taken to a printer, like Office Max, to be printed on oversize paper. They make unique and impressive gifts and are great topics for conversation at get-togethers.

If you don't have the ability to read spreadsheets, please let me know and I'll tell you how to install a free Microsoft spreadsheet viewer. It may be possible to send the basic sheet via .pdf file. Contact me for details.

These charts advance village research and help the Center for Volga-German Studies and the Oregon Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

Once purchased, I send the two files in spreadsheet format. The cost for members of the chapter would be \$15 (for both charts). I would also include a .kmz file, which when opened with free Google Earth, would bring up all the villages listed in satellite view. From here, you can zoom in, zoom out, show roads, show locations of ground-based photos, etc. Members can contact me by e-mail, dm48@comcast.net. File transmission is likewise by e-mail. Proceeds go to the acquisition of more information from Russia.

Michael Frank
dm48@comcast.net
360/601-7361

**Bergseit
Chart**

36" x 15"

**Wiesenseite
Chart**

43" x 25"

PERPETRATOR AGAINST HIS WILL, *Part 1*

Stickel, Klaus, *Mitteilungsblatt des Bessarabiendeutschen Vereins*, January, 2015, pp. 28-29 and February, 2015, pp. 19-20.

Translated from the original-language text to American English is provided by Alex Herzog, Boulder, CO. with editorial assistance from Dr. Nancy Herzog. Permission of the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, North Dakota State University Libraries, Fargo – www.ndsu.edu/grhc.

Editor's Comment: *Klaus Stickel, author of the well-known book Im Sturm der Geschichte [Inside the Storm of History], sent us the following article, regarding which he explains: "These are descriptions of experiences of my parents and grandparents, in which they report on how they became forcibly enmeshed in the crimes of the Nazi rulers in the Warthegau. Ten years ago I questioned my parents and others from Bessarabia about their experiences and captured their recollections on tape. These recordings eventually became the basis for my book Im Sturm der Geschichte.*

Translator's Note: The article was published in two successive parts, but combined for this translation. The Germans used the name *Wartheland* for the western Poland area referred to here, named after the River *Warthe* that flows through it. The Nazis renamed it *Warthegau*.

Resettlement to the *Warthegau* forced the Bessarabian Germans to become mere toys in the machinery of the politics of destruction by the Race and Settlement Office of the SS.

The Race and Settlement Office had planned colossal projects for the settlement and domination of the East. A very significant component was the resettlements carried out on a large scale following the military campaign into Poland. These resettlements involved Baltic Germans, Volhynians and Bessarabian Germans. The Nazis played with ethnic peoples as if they were mere chess figures. The language of the plans mocks any description. For example, "racially valuable" populations were to be "Germanized" or even "re-peopled." In another example we read about whether "racially undesirable parts of the population" should not simply be "ground to pieces by industrialization" (Hannah Vogt, *Schuld oder Verhängnis [Guilt or Undoing]*, p. 215).

After Germany occupied it, the *Wartheland* was incorporated into the Reich and administered by the Reich-SS-leader Heinrich Himmler. The security police had established a "central re-migration office" in Litzmannstadt [Łódź, today] which planned and ruthlessly carried out the forcible emigration of undesirable Poles and Jews. By June, 1941, more than a million citizens were removed from their homeland and resettled inside the "General Government" [abbreviated GG, the large Eastern part of Poland occupied by, but not incorporated into Germany]. Some 47,000 farms with land totaling 9.22 million hectares [more than 23 million acres] were confiscated. It was this land which the so-called *Volksdeutsche* [ethnic Germans] were assigned to and settled on. By the middle of 1941, this included more than 150,000 people of German origin from Siebenbürgen, Donauschwaben, the Banat and (as the last ones [before 1944]) 41,603 from Bessarabia. The central aim of this resettlement policy was to aryanize, once and for all, the Polish territories that from 1828 until the 1918 Versailles Treaty had belonged to Prussia or the German Empire. The territories' administration was tightly enmeshed with the Nazi Party, as seen by the fact that mayors were local party group leaders, regional leaders were higher-ranking party functionaries, and the overall territorial administrators were the so-called *Gauleiter*—invariably Nazi bigwigs.

It is through the personal experiences of my parents and grandparents that I would like to describe how the Bessarabians were woven into this policy of contempt for humans

Recollections of my Father, Emil Stickel

I [Emil] was a soldier in the SS Infantry Regiment 6 and had applied for furlough for when it came time for the actual settlement. I was granted two weeks, and on November 10, 1941 I took the train to Litzmannstadt.

In the Waldhorst Camp I met my parents so that we could scout out a farm together. They had just visited my sister Berta, who was living with her in-laws, the Stahls, and now they wished to look for a farm near that family. I was not in favor of moving there because it was twelve kilometers [ca. 7.5 miles] from the nearest city, and the road was in bad condition.

"Emil, you are a soldier and will soon return to the war, but we are here all by ourselves, so it would be better if we lived near Berta."

"If you think so. You need to feel good about living here. After the war we'll look for a place somewhere else."

We then went to the staff office that was handling the settlement assignments.

The fat, but stiffly upright Commissar greeted us with a lively "Heil Hitler." He answered my question about where my parents would be settled with the following: "Herr *Rottenführer* [a leader of a small SS unit], I can see you have distinguished yourself at the front and have been wounded. Naturally that gives you special rights." Self-satisfied, he leaned back and added: "Why don't you look for a large

land estate. We'll make sure that you get it."

"No," countered Dadde [father], "we are honest people and do not want more than what we owned in Bessarabia, where we had thirty-six hectares [about under a hundred acres]."

"As you wish," the Commissar said, scratching his head in amazement, "Most people want something larger. Anyway, we have plenty of land. The decision is yours."

Inspection of a specific property was scheduled for the next day.

In a horse buggy we drove to Meschonne, where we looked at a farm. We inspected the buildings, which were not exactly what we might have wished for, but the place was only two kilometers [ca. 1.2 miles] from the Slondjovizce estate, where the Stahls were living.

This particular farm property consisted of several smaller farm yards and a total of six houses. For ourselves we selected the largest one, a concrete building with four rooms, but without a cellar. In the yard there was a well, and in a corner a drain for waste water. The house was fully furnished. Everything from pots and pans to bed linen was there.

A smaller building next door was already housing the Poles to whom this property had belonged until a short while ago. They stood in front of their building and observed quietly. An eerie feeling befell us. The house in which they now had to live had only two large rooms --they were not permitted anything larger. The left half was occupied by Josef, the former owner, his wife and his children (fourteen, eight and six years of age), while the other side of the entryway was occupied by his brother and that man's wife and two children. Both families now had to work for us, the men as farm hands, the women as maids, and the children as animal herders. For the time being, the oldest was allowed to attend school, but a year later that would also be forbidden.

My father looked at everything. "This is not the way I imagined this settlement. What is happening here is not right. To take their property from these people and make them work as farm hands is an injustice. On that, God's blessing cannot come, it's a sin" Pointing in the direction of the fields, he said, "this can't turn out good, this must not be allowed to turn out good."

Dadde was one of the few who as early as 1941 were certain that the Thousand-Year Reich was short-lived. But I and all the others had no doubts about the future.

So now my parents had become new citizens. The Commissar came by and made a list of everything missing for a complete basic farm operation, and soon one after the other item was delivered: a plow, a mowing machine, scythes, a horse buggy, and so on. Most of the equipment was used and, as it turned out, came from other confiscated farms.

To be continued in the fall 2015 edition.



AHSGR KANSAS ROUND-UP

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

OF CHAPTERS

Hotel Information
DAYS INN (Next to Whiskey Creek)
 3205 Vine Street, Hays, Ks.
 Phone: 785-628-8261
 ROOM: \$65.00+ tax, including a continental breakfast.
 Room reservation Deadline - Saturday, September 19, 2015.
 Please be sure to mention "Kansas Round-Up of Chapters" when you make your reservations.

Don't miss the interesting guests:

AHSGR Representatives

Sherry Pawelko, Executive Director
 Diane Wilson, Research Librarian

Family Research Online

Mike Meisinger

Researching Kansas Digital Newspapers

Gary Ubert

Dr. Mark Jantzen

Bethel College, Kansas

VIDEO – We (Never) Don't Forget Germans from Russia in South America, 2015

(This was premiered at the AHSGR and GRHS Conventions this summer.)

POLKA MUSIC

Garry Batt, Russell, Kansas

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Bryan Pinkall,

"Time Forward: Volga-German Heritage and the Sochi 2014 Olympic Opening Ceremony"

FRIDAY OKTOBERFEST ACTIVITIES:

We encourage you to arrive in Hays early Friday morning to take part on the Hays Oktoberfest with the tapping on the keg ceremonies beginning at 11:30 a.m. There will be a "Gathering of Round-Up attendees" in the back room of Whiskey Creek beginning at 5:00 p.m. for sandwiches, snacks, desserts/kuchen and drinks. Please use the North side door of the restaurant.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

September 19th

Registration Fee: \$10 Non-Member: \$15

Lunch and Banquet: \$25

This year's annual Round-Up is hosted by the Northeast Kansas Chapter, Topeka, Kansas.

October 3, 2015

Saturday at Whiskey Creek, 3203 Vine, Hays, KS

Registration 8am, Meeting/Presenters Begin 9am

Keynote Banquet 6pm



FOR MORE INFO: Kevin Rupp 785-656-0329 or
www.sunflowerchapterofahsgr.net/Roundup.htm



FOLK SONGS OF OUR FORFATHERS

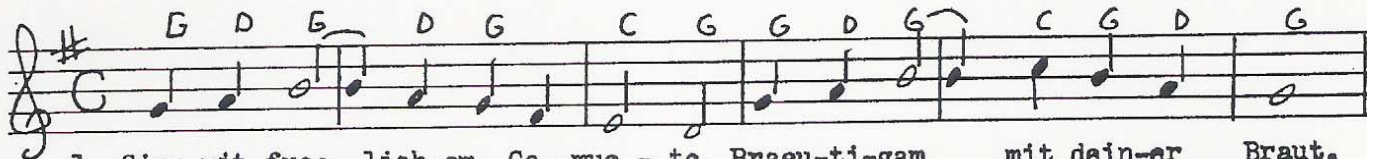
"Das Braut Lied"

The Brautdusch or "Brides Song" is probably one of the most popular and most loved folksong. It is sung at the wedding as a toast to the bride and groom just before the festivities begin. It is not uncommon for some of the relatives to shed a few tears because the song is so meaningful. We sometimes call it the Queen of all our folksongs. The tradition continues at some of the Volga-German weddings where one can still hear this song being sung.

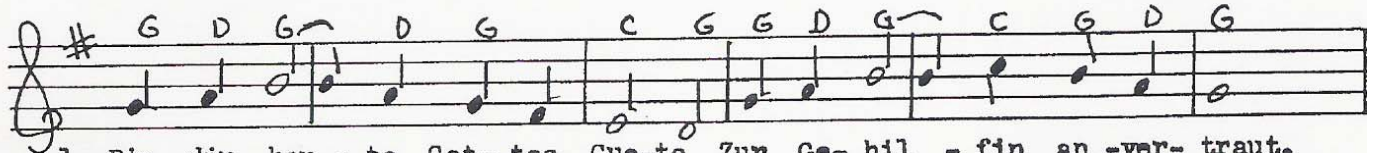


BRAUT LIED

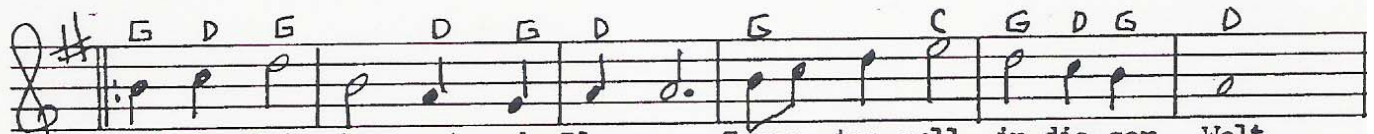
Music transcribed by
Wendelin Sander



1. Sing mit froe -lich-em Ge -mue - te. Braeu-ti-gam mit dein-er Braut.
2. Tre- tet froe -lich zum Al- ta - re, Be - tet Gott mit ehr-furcht an.
3. Reicht ein-an - der Hand und Her-zen. Red-lich oh - ne heuch-e - lei.
1. Sing with gay and cheerfull Spirit. Bridegroom with your lovely bride.

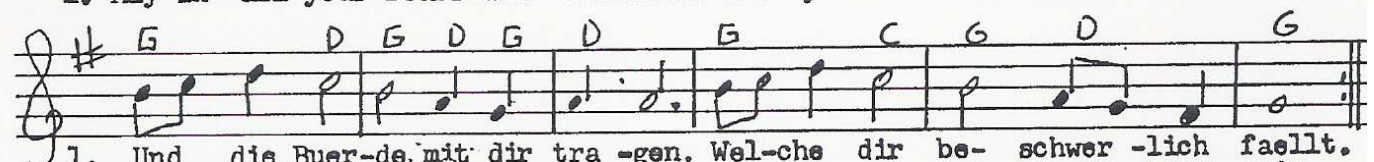


1. Die dir heu - te Got- tes Gue- te Zur Ge- hil - fin an -ver- traut.
2. Des- sen Gue - te viel- le Jah- re Euch ge-sund er -hal- ten kann.
3. Trach- tet das in Freud und Schmerzen Eur- e treu - e stand- haft sei.
1. Whom to- day God has en- trusted. As a hel - per at your side.



1. Das sie dich in Angst und Pla- gen. Troes -ten soll in die-ser Welt
2. Bit- tet Je- sum um den Se -gen. La -det Ihn zur Hoch-zeit ein
3. Im -mer soll die Lie - be bren- nen. Nach dem Goett-lich-em Ge- bot

1. May in all your fears and troubles. She your con- sol -ation be



1. Und die Buer- de mit dir tra -gen. Wel- che dir be- schwer -lich faellt.
2. Denn da- ran ist es ge - le -gen Wenn ihr wol- let glueck -lich sein.
3. Nie- mand soll die Eh- e tren- nen Nie- mand als al- lein der Tod.
1. And with you share all the burdens From all sorrow you'll be free.



NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE

“The German-Russians in Words and Pictures” by Dr. William Bosch

The author writes in the Preface of the book: “The German-Russians left Germany and traveled to Russia, where they created an agricultural and industrial empire. Then many of them left it all behind and started anew somewhere in the Americas. Their story is a colorful and fascinating tale filled with triumph and tragedy. I hope this book will help people discover this saga of an amazing people and their achievements. The German-Russian people in each area of Russia shared many common experiences with their kinfolk in other areas. This is also true for settlers in various areas of the United States and Canada. When I was growing up in the southern part of North Dakota, all of my relatives spoke a German dialect. We all had grandparents who grew up in Russia.”

In the Dedication, William Bosch writes: “This book is dedicated to my grandma Maria, who died long before I was born. She brought her infant son, who later became my father, her two older sons and her husband safely from Rosental in Crimea to North Dakota without losing anyone.”

The Table of Contents includes: Part One: The Volga River German Migration and Colonies including The Early Years; The Good Years; Work and Daily Life in the Volga River Region; Part Two: The Black Sea Migration and Colonies including The Early Years; The Good Years; Work and Daily Life in the Black Sea German Region; Part Three: The Migration to and the Settlement in the Americas – Why They Left; Developments in the United States and Canada, Migrations to the Americas; Route and Fares; What They Found in America; The Volga Migration to the Americas; The Black Sea Migration to the Americas; Eureka, the Wheat Capital; Epilogue.

For Part Three of The Migration to and the Settlement in the Americas, Bosch expands on the following topics for the reader, especially for the Black Sea Germans: The Role of the Railroads; Finding a Claim and Building a Home; Cooking and Heating; Price for Agricultural Products and Land; Other Sources of Income; Fires and Blizzards; Education; Religion; Medical and Dental Care; Hunting, Fishing and Baseball.

The book includes detailed Appendix I of Works Cited and Other Resources and Appendix II of Image Credits. The Index is comprehensive and most helpful to locate sources. There are many excellent historical black and white photographs throughout this book.

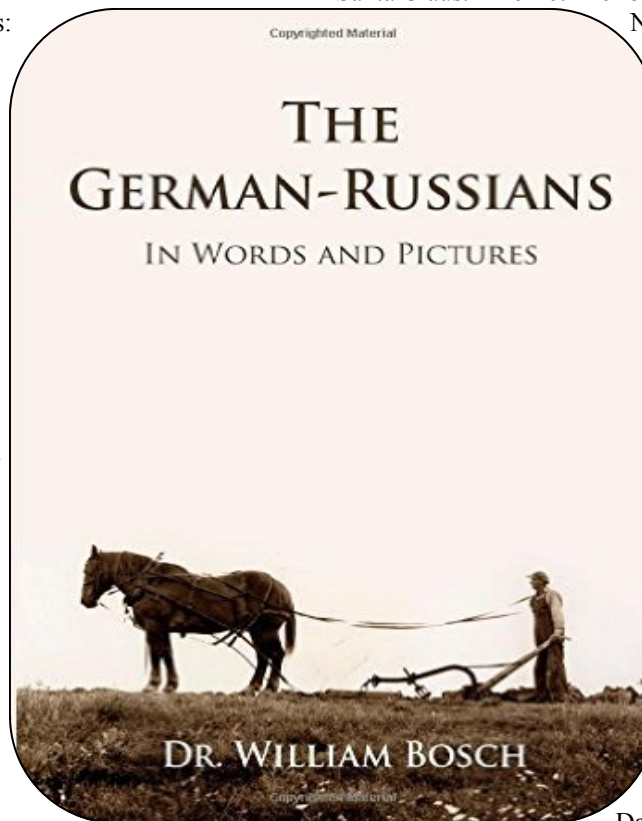
William Bosch writes nicely in his Epilogue: “Germans who moved to North and South America did well. In the US and Canada, they gradually assimilated into the English speaking populace and their respective economies. Today, it is very hard to find anyone under sixty who still speaks a German dialect that was spoken in Russia.”

“Their schools, churches and commercial pursuits are indistinguishable from those of other ethnic groups in the United States and Canada. Their customs of three-day weddings have died out, as have Krist Krindl and Belznickel, which have been replaced by Santa Claus. Their ethnic foods remain, and some restaurants in

North and South Dakota serve German-Russian dishes one or two days a week. Perhaps their greatest legacy is the role they played in developing agricultural industries in their new lands in the Americas.”

About the Author

William Bosch grew up on a farm in Emmons County, east of Linton, North Dakota. Both sides of his family have German-Russian backgrounds. His mother’s family (Dockter) came from Neudorf and Kassel (Glueckstal District) and his father’s family (Bosch) from the Catholic village of Rosental in Crimea. After graduating from Linton High School, he attended North Dakota State University where he earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree in mathematics education. He taught in the mathematics department at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota from 1963-1965. He then studied at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he obtained a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1970. His working years were spent teaching mathematics at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado. That is where he met his wife and married Margaret (Robinson) Bosch. They moved to Spearfish, South Dakota in 2005. They have a daughter, Julie, who lives in Colorado. William (Bill) is a member of the Black Hills Chapter of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (Bismarck, North Dakota), and a member of the Center of the Nation Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (Lincoln, Nebraska).



We (Never) Don't Forget Germans from Russia in South America

Produced by Prairie Public Broadcasting, Fargo, North Dakota, 2015, 60 minutes, DVD, \$30.00



Like North America before the turn of the 1900s, South America was a land of opportunity - a magnet of immigration from Europe and Asia. Many of these immigrants were directly related to Germans from Russia in the United States and Canada. They were a mixture of Black Sea Germans, Volga Germans, Volhynian Germans, Bessarabian Germans and Mennonite Germans.

The wonderers to South America were no longer guided by the North Star in the nightly sky; rather, they found the Southern Cross and a climate exactly in reverse to what they knew. Their traditions are the traditions of North America - their culture, our culture, their music, our music.

We (Never) Don't Forget Germans from Russia in South America examines the history, language, music, religion, foodways, and culture of this ethnic group and chronicles how these traditions are flourishing across generations.

Producer: Bob Dambach - Editor: Andy Garske - Narrator: Dan Michaels - Scriptwriters: Dona Reeves-Marquardt, Lewis R. Marquardt - Executive Producers: Bob Dambach, Michael M. Miller - Cover Design: Les Skoropat - Closed Captioning: Armour Captioning



Funding provided in part by Arthur E. Flegel, Maria Kaiser MacTavish, Michael M. Miller, Donald C. Schenk, Eric J. Schmaltz, and by the members of Prairie Public.

Documentary Review:

"*We (Never) Don't Forget Germans from Russia in South America* is simply astounding. Its executive producers, Bob Dambach of Prairie Public Broadcasting and Michael Miller of NDSU Libraries Germans from Russia Heritage Collection along with their respective staffs and volunteers have once again crafted a first-rate video production. For having privately dismissed the undertaking as pointless and a waste of resources, this writer is now eating one gigantic platter of crow.

Alone, the Brazilian/Argentine landscape is riveting, and Dambach and crew have masterfully captured it and its people at work and play. Huge credit goes to Miller's staff for assembling and translating a mountain of voice recordings and written testimony into a coherent script. The collaborative result is of profound educational value with a seamless story line told in a way that is as good as it gets.

South American GRs do what their North American counterparts have done and still do but instead of the North Star as their grounding force, they look upon the Southern Cross for guidance."

-- James T. Gessele, Minneapolis, Minnesota



GRAMMY WINNER TO SPEAK AT KANSAS ROUNDUP IN HAYS



Dr. Bryan Pinkall, who is descendant of the Dechant families from Ellis County, Kansas, will be the banquet keynote speaker for the Kansas Round-Up of Chapters on Saturday, October 3 at Hays.

Dr. Pinkall is a tenor from Great Bend who traveled to Los Angeles in 2013 to see the Kansas City Chorale, of which he a performer, won a Grammy Award.

He earned his doctorate in musical arts at the university of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and accepted as assistant professor of music position at Kansas State University, his alma mater. He was invited to work as an artistic director for the opening ceremony at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, and became part of the tea, earning an Emmy for best lighting direction.

A lifelong fan of Olympic opening ceremonies, he has a blog detailing ceremonies since 1896. Pinkall worked through language and cultural differences to direct singers and musicians for several months in 2013 and early 2014. He oversaw taping sessions in New York, Moscow and Sochi, then transitioned from vocal instructor to stage manager as rehearsals began.

Though only one of several artistic assistants working for the producers, Pinkall successfully lobbied for the music used in the production that depicted Russian history. It was important to him to include the music of Alfred Schrittko, a Volga-German composer whose people were victims of genocide against ethnic Germans living in Russia from 1915 through 1945. many who survived and eventually settled in Great Bend, Hays and near McPherson.

For a must see, check out his Doctoral Recital from 2012. Just go to www.youtube.com and type in the search bar, [Bryan Pinkall's Doctoral Recital - The Volga Germans](#).

The DVD is available at <https://store.ahsgr.org/default.aspx> or <http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/index.html>



DAS ESSEN....The Food of Our Forefathers

With the start of this newsletter we will start offering the recipes of our forefathers through different sources. This edition we begin with a Kuchen made with watermelon syrup. Sam Brungardt was very gracious in sharing with us this handed down family recipe. With this being the season for watermelons, it fits perfect!

Dünne Kuchen

For this issue of the Sunflower Carpenter Newsletter, we'll be making *dünne Kuchen* that has a watermelon syrup and *Riwele* topping.

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

One way the Volga Germans used watermelon syrup was in the spiced sweet buns known as *Pefferniß*. My grandma, Elisabetha Haberkorn Herman, and her sisters, *Ami* (Anna Maria) *Wäs* and *Susanna Wäs*, made *Pefferniß* for every holiday. (The Johannes Haberkorn family had emigrated to Pfeifer, Kansas, from the *Bergseite*, or hilly-side-of-the-Volga, daughter colony of Marienfeld. The only spice they used in *Pefferniß* was finely ground black pepper, which they added with a heavy hand. Grandma knew the buns would be spicy enough if she could detect the bite of the pepper when she tasted a bit of the dough. And those buns *were* spicy; we ate them slathered thickly with homemade butter, to help cool our mouths.

Of course, you can't buy watermelon syrup, so what you do when you've used up the supply you made last summer? My great-aunt *Ami Wäs* discovered she could make pretty good *Pefferniß* by substituting green label Br'er Rabbit molasses for the watermelon syrup. Another substitute for some Volga German families was a syrup made by boiling down the juice of sugar beets.

Although Grandma Herman and my great-aunts used watermelon syrup to make only *Pefferniß*, some of our neighbor ladies at Emmeram, Kansas, whose families came from the Wiesenseite colony of Herzog (Susly), used it to make a topping for *dünne Kuchen*, which they pronounced *dinne or denna Kuche*'. They'd cook watermelon syrup, flour, and cream together until the mixture became as thick as pudding. Once this cooled, it was spread on sweet dough that had been rolled out thin and laid into a shallow pan or on a cookie sheet. The *Kuche*' was then topped with *Streusel* (which grandma called *Krimel* or *Riwele*), and baked.

For years I tried to figure out what "*dinna*" or "*denna*" meant. From August Lonsinger's book, *Sachliche Volkskunde der Wolgadeutschen* (*Material Folks-Culture of the Volga Germans*) I learned that *dinna* or *denna Kuche*' is actually *dünne Kuchen* (thin Kuchen) in standard German. It was called this because the dough was rolled out thinly and baked in a *Blechpfanne* (a shallow pan, like a jelly roll pan) and to distinguish it from just plain *Kuche*', which the Volga Germans sometimes called loaf bread.

Making watermelon syrup



Making watermelon syrup isn't complicated or difficult. But separating the juice of the melons from the seeds and pulp and cooking the juice down to a thick syrup can be tedious and time consuming.

To extract the juice, cut a melon in half and scoop the flesh into a large pan. Mash the flesh thoroughly. Then strain the resulting mess, capturing the juice and pouring it into a large kettle. (The heavier the kettle, the better; in Russia they most likely would have used the all-purpose cast iron cauldron in the *Sommerküche*.) Dump the seeds and "dejuiced" pulp into a bucket to feed to the chickens or hogs. If the

seeds are very large, you may want to consider keeping them for *Knackkern*.

Cook the juice, uncovered, stirring frequently with a wooden paddle or spoon (a silicone spatula works well) to keep it from burning. (However, if it scorches a little, the syrup will taste authentic. As the water evaporates and the juice thickens, lower the heat and stir continuously. Watch out -- it will "pop" as it becomes thicker.

When the juice has cooked to the desired consistency, you may add some granulated sugar if you prefer. The watermelon syrup is then ready to be used or canned.

To can the watermelon syrup, fill hot, sterilized canning jars with the syrup to ½ inch of their rims. Top the jars with sterilized lids and seal with rings, tightening them firmly. Process half-pint or pint jars in a boiling water bath for 10 minutes. Remove the jars from the canner and allow to cool in a draft-free place.

And now to make the *Küche*'... Here are some recipes for *dünne Kuchen* made with watermelon syrup or a caramelized or burnt sugar *Latwerge*:

Watermelon Syrup Coffee Bread (*Ribel Kuchen*)

This recipe is adapted from one in AHSGR's *Küche Kochen* cookbook. It was contributed by Venita Schnedier of Fort Collins, Colorado.

First, prepare the dough:

1-1/2 c. milk, scalded	½ c. butter or oleomargarine	About 6-1/2 c. flour
½ c. or less sugar	2 envelopes active dry yeast	2 eggs, unbeaten
2 tsp. salt	½ c. warm water	

Combine the scalded milk, sugar, salt and butter (or margarine). Let cool to lukewarm.

Add the yeast to the warm water. When the yeast foams, add about 3 c. of the flour and beat the mixture well.

Add the eggs and the activated yeast to the milk-sugar-salt-butter mixture. Then add enough of the rest of the flour until the dough is easy to handle. Knead gently until the dough is smooth. Place the dough in a greased bowl, turn it over, cover, and let rise until doubled in bulk, about 1-1/2 hours.

Meantime, prepare the butter balls for the topping:

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, melted	about 3 c. flour	about 2 c. sugar
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Melt the butter (you will use only the liquid oily or clarified portion, not the solids). Mix the flour with the sugar, then pour the clarified butter over the flour-sugar mixture. Mix thoroughly, until the mixture is quite crumbly. Shake the pan, taking off the butter balls as they form on top and reserve them to use for the topping.

Then prepare the watermelon syrup thickening:

2 c. watermelon syrup	4 Tbsp. flour
1 to 2 c. water (depending on the concentration of the watermelon syrup)	3-4 Tbsp. sugar

Add the flour and sugar to the watermelon syrup and water and stir until smooth. In a saucepan, cook the mixture over high heat until it has the thickness of gravy. Let cool.

Finally, assemble and bake the *Kuchen*:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Take the risen dough from the bowl and, on a floured surface, roll it out very thin (¼ to ½" thick). Line two large, greased baking sheets or cookie pans, pressing the dough very tightly to the edges. Spread an even layer of the watermelon syrup thickening over the dough, clear to the edges. Sprinkle the butter balls over the top of the *Kuchen*, shaking the pan to distribute them evenly.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and brush the edges with melted butter.

If anyone has any recipes that that want to share in this newsletter please send them to:

Kevin Rupp
2301 Canal Blvd
Hays, Ks. 67601

Or email at....

krupp@ruraltel.net



UNSERE LEUT IM BILD.....

The photos below were from the July 19th conference in Hays, Ks.





2015 SUNFLOWER CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM

Members 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.

_____ **\$45.00 Basic Annual Membership** - Includes all benefits, voting rights & notices except, NO Journal, Newsletter or Clues. This includes national & local dues.

_____ **\$60.00 Standard Annual Membership** - Includes all benefits, voting rights, notices **including Journal & Newsletter**, except NO Clues. This includes national & local dues.

_____ **\$110.00 Premium Annual Membership** - Includes all benefits, voting rights, notices **including Journal & Newsletter plus Clues & Membership Plus Subscription**. This includes national & local dues.

_____ **\$10.00 Local Dues Only** (International Dues have already been paid to headquarters or I am a Life Member)

Membership renewals are due by January 1

Areas of Interest:

We are always looking for more help in our chapter.

Please mark your areas of interest:

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

Make your check out to the
SUNFLOWER CHAPTER
SUBMIT ALL RENEWALS FOR
LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL TO OUR
TREASURER:
Jerry Braun
218 Castillian Gardens
Hays, Ks. 67601

Additional Commentary:

1. **Clues** – A genealogy helper for researching family histories: Lists of villages & surnames that AHSGR members are researching. Lists AHSGR member contacts who are will to exchange research information and the AHSGR Village Coordinator Network. Provides instructions for submitting GEDCOM files to the AHSGR database. GEDCOM is an acronym standing for **GE**nealogical **D**ata **COMM**unication. **Important consideration:** To be listed/published in **Clues**, do **not** select the “Privacy Option” on the printable **Membership Application and Data Form**.

2. **Research Your German Russian Ancestors (GR-Research)** – with no fee or masking of search results. Visit and explore the AHSGR GR-Research website at <http://www.ahsgr.org/GR-Research.htm>. **Open Access GR-Research** is accessible by all members & non-members. Members **Only GR-Research** includes **Open Access GR-Research** plus additional research data that will be available to authorized membership levels sometime in mid-2015. See the full **GR-Research** description at <http://www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm>

If new member, how did you hear about AHSGR?

Website _____ Facebook _____ Magazine Ad _____ Society Visit _____ Other _____

Name of referring Chapter or Member: _____



SUNFLOWER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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