



Sunflower Chapter NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014



Vol. 18, Issue 1



WHEN TRADITIONS COME TO LIFE

By Judy Hoffman



Der Belznickl make an appearance warning the children they better behave or no presents at Christmas time.

with booming voice, Belznickl warned children who were bad to start being good. He asked if they were saying their prayers and warned them to behave til Santa comes. "I come before Santa Claus to make sure everybody behaves!" he boomed. Needless to say, the little ones were all eyes and ears and not one bit thinking of questioning this scary creature! As Belznickl made his way among the crowd I couldn't help but wonder....could this be one who as a small boy, remembered hiding from Belznickl's visit to his own home? Who knows? You can bet the children were relieved when Belznickl left the room.

There were the children; there was expectation of surprises and goodies. The German banquet was a feast, a throwback to days of great cooks and traditional favorites. Then the program began with Leona Pfeifer reading the Nativity scripture in German. A merry sing-along followed as everyone joined in singing "Stille Nacht" and other Christmas songs in German. Suddenly there was a loud knock at the door. Then entered the most feared of childhood Christmas figures: Belznickl! All dressed in dark clothing, face hidden, rattling a big chain and carrying a short whip that was swashed around, smacking tables and chairs as



Das Christkind asks the children many questions before she gives them bags of candies.

Then another knock...and the door opened to someone clothed in white from head to toe; face covered by a long white veil. Who could this be? Lo and behold, before our very eyes, Christkind! "Kinder, cum hadh!" she gently spoke. Slowly they came forward and gathered around this figure in white, so gentle, such a kind voice. What a welcome change from that awful "Belznickl!"

Christkind asked the children: "Do you know who I am? Have you seen me before? Whose birthday do we celebrate? My Jesus. We come to celebrate Him. Do you know how to pray? Let's make the sign of the



Board Members Installed: Jerry Braun, treasurer, Judy Hoffman, Secretary, Janel Moore, Vice-President, Kevin Rupp, President.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Kevin Rupp -

This past December we installed our new slate of officers for another three years. This included myself as president, Janel Moore as vice-president, Judy Hoffman as secretary and Jerry Braun as treasurer. I want to thank these people for their dedication to our chapter.

At the December meeting we donated \$1,500.00 to Lincoln and some wondered why we also give them money. That's a good question. The Sunflower Chapter is a "daughter" of the parent organization, AHSGR. Without them and our financial support we are just a social club. The money that we sent to Lincoln will be used in two ways, \$1000.00 will be used to translated records that come from the Russian archives. The other \$500.00 has been put in a special account to help pay for a laptop for a researcher that we have living in Volgograd. You might have met her when she was here in 2010 I believe, Dr. Elena Ananyan. She will be going to the archives in Saratov and Engels soon and will use this laptop to communicate with AHSGR and do the research that we requested. She has become a valued friend of AHSGR.

I hate to mention this, but the office manager for AHSGR has resigned as of February 14th. The board hopes to have a new office manager in place by our Spring board meeting which is Thursday, April 3 through Saturday, April 5. I will be going up for the meetings on Wednesday, April 2 and come home on Friday, April 4. We do have a full time librarian which was very much needed.

Membership holds about the same as last year, but I would like to ask you to keep trying to get us more members. We don't want our heritage to die out with our membership! If you have not renewed

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cross together. What prayer do you say at home? "Someone said "The Our Father". Christkind said "Let's pray the Our Father together so when Jesus comes He will see we know how to pray. Let's pray the Our Father in German."

"Now I want to ask you some questions. Where was Jesus born?" A child answered "In a manger". "And who was the mother of Jesus?" Another answered "Mary". "And who was the father of Jesus?" A child answered "God!" "Oh yes, you are right! But who helped Mary here on earth?" Then we heard "Joseph". Christkind then asked "What do you do good for Jesus?" Someone answered "if someone falls, you help them up". Now Christkind asked the tough question: "Do you do something bad?". All said loudly "NO!" "Because you are such good kinder I have something for you. I tell you in German: Danke Schone." All were given a bag of goodies and Christkind went away to visit other children.

How better to instill in our memory such traditions as to see them come to life right before our eyes? Both were so well enacted that we were caught up in the contrast between these two holiday season visitors. Belznickl would come around December 6th, in furs, tattered clothes, chains and a short whip in hand. A feared symbol. A week later, Christkind came. Sometimes just with a tap at the window, leaving a gift, or with a gracious, kind presence such as we were privileged to experience today.

"Wuensching" followed presented in several village dialects in which all were invited to share the ones they'd learned from childhood.



Leona Pfeifer reads the story of the nativity from the Gospel in German to the group.



Having just finished the Christmas banquet, members get ready for the Christmas program.



Sr. Rita Thouvenelle and Leroy Herrman stop to have their photo taken after so much "Schpass" (fun)



Chapter members pay close attention to the Christkind, hoping not to be called upon to recite their prayers in German!



Leroy Herrman and Leona Pfeifer share a joke during the program.

President's Message

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your membership, it is now overdue. If you are not renewing your membership we would like to know why, so please send us a note telling us. Everyone in our chapter has different interests and we hope to cover all those areas.

We are still trying to bring the library cabinet to the main level so that it may be more utilized. I am hoping we will have an answer by our next meeting. In fact, that will be part of our program.

I am needing ideas for the newsletter to try and make it interesting to our chapter and friends. Please let me know what you want to read about and perhaps send a few articles that we can use.

Thank you for supporting our local chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia!!!

Chapter Meeting Program

I hope to see many of you on Sunday, February 23rd at 11:30am for our Fasenacht meeting. We will begin with a simple soup meal with bread provided by the board members at noon. Following the meal, we will be showing a video called "Faces of Russia: The Volga Germans". This will be a 30 minute video talking about the Volga Germans in modern day Russia.

Following the video, we will be discussing genealogy research and what resource items are available especially those that are available in our own research chapter library. Our librarian, Shirley Brungardt, does a fine job keeping everything up to date. Please come with your family histories to share with the chapter or hopefully to find some new information.

At every meeting we try to give you some cultural experience, whether it is music, food, language, dialect or history. If there is something program that you would like to have please let us know.

Soup is served at noon!

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER BOARD

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German Evangelical-Lutheran Settlements on the Volga—a Book Review of the German-language Edition

Herzog, Johannes, *Volk auf dem Weg*, November, 2013, 42.

Translation from the original German-language text to American English is provided by Alex Herzog, Boulder, CO. With editorial assistance from Dr. Nancy Herzog.

[Note: The reviewer is this translator's cousin, who has translated several books from Russian into German and vice versa and is a co-translator of the book under discussion. – Tr.]

To get right to the point, we are dealing here with the book *German Evangelical-Lutheran Settlements on the Volga* by Olga Litzenberger. Its publisher is the Historischer Forschungsverein der Deutschen aus Russland (www.hfdr.de) [Historical Research Association of Germans from Russia].

It is with a purpose I have included the website above, through which the book can be obtained. I am thus directing myself to the younger generation of readers of *Volk auf dem Weg*, particularly the descendants of Volga Germans living in Russia, Kazakhstan, and Germany.

If you are genuinely interested in the history of the Volga Germans, who established a grand, though sadly ruined settlement network, you must not bypass this equally grand literary work of Prof. Dr. Litzenberger.

Olga Litzenberger provided her book with an extensive foreword, in which she addresses all the various facets of life of the Volga Germans, especially their ties with religion, which permeated all those areas of life to such a degree that one cannot imagine any one of them without this background. No one can do a better job of informing the reader about the meaning and purpose of this book than she has done.

I wish to emphasize merely one important aspect, namely, how she treats the history of the homeland. Do you wish to ascertain where exactly the place your ancestors came from was located or perhaps is still

located, when it was established, why those hipped roofs were valued so much, how the majority of your ancestors earned their living, at what point the locale got its own school, when the church was built, which denomination most of the residents were part of, to which parish the church community belonged? This book provides an answer for all of that, not merely in generalities, but with concrete information on every listed locale, and replete with photos and illustrations.

In conclusion, a brief note: Mrs. Litzenberger's Russian is excellent, precise and understandable. She does not use monstrous or highly complex word constructions as is common among some "pseudo-academics," and despite the sheer size of the book, translating it into German was a joy.

Johannes Herzog of Königswinter near Bonn, Germany, co-translator of the book. *Deutsche evangelische Siedlungen an der Wolga* [German Evangelical-Lutheran Settlements on the Volga]

Special thanks to Michael Miller of the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU, for letting us reprint this article and Alex Herzog, Boulder, CO. for its translation.



Dialects of the German Russians Migration Routes and Strokes of Fate

A Book Review

Berend, Nina, *Volk auf dem Weg*, November, 2013, 25-26.

Translation from the original German-language text to American English is provided by Alex Herzog, Boulder, CO., with editorial assistance from Dr. Nancy Herzog. Translation of Russian vocabulary was provided by the translator's sister, Maria McKeirnan of Spokane, WA.

The history of German Russian dialects begins with the establishment of German settlements in the Tsarist Empire during the 18th Century. At the time, in the areas that immigrants moved to there was no spoken High German; instead there were numerous dialects that were for the most part restricted to rather small locales. Because the immigrants had come from several different parts of Germany, initially in the mother colonies, often quite variant, "other"-sounding and odd "kinds of language" were spoken, and thus in Russia this multiplicity of dialects and richness of language mirrored that of the former German-language regions of the immigrants.

During their existence in the Tsarist Empire, the small number of minority dialects eventually became more and more like the majority dialects. As initial scientific research on dialects by Georg Dinges and Viktor Schirmunski show, that around 1920, the Hessian and the Palatinate dialects were dominant in the Volga region, Plattdeutsch (or "Plattdietsch" or "Mennonite") and Franconian as well as Bavarian prevailed in South Russia, while "Volhynia German" prevailed in western Ukraine. However, a strict separation of dialects by geography did not exist in Russia.

On the map of dialects in Germany, dialects such as the "Mennonite" or "Volhynia German" would be looked for in vain. Neither did a uniform "Volga German" ever emerge. Although the middle-German dialects spoken in the Volga region eventually grew to be similar, as is typical for German Russian dialects, they retained to the end their direct originating geography-related characteristics (e.g., instead of the beginning "pf" sound, in the Palatinate dialect one finds words such as Pann [Pfanne in High German, or pan in English] or Pewwer [Pfeffer, or pepper] just as one does in Germany. The "Volga German Language Atlas" constructed by Prof. Georg Dinges demonstrates that the German dialects spoken in Russia were in many ways independent language systems furnished with a variety of "landmarks."

Although the situation during the initial emigration years was rather colorful, after 100 or even 150 years in the mother colonies, dialects had emerged as characteristic of their specific colonies, but also differentiable from those of other colonies, and fairly uniform within colonies.

Before the wars, even in the daughter colonies, mostly uniform forms of dialects were spoken, because those settlements were founded by voluntary resettlers coming from places with similar language usage.

Until World War II, German Russian dialects were the acknowledged means of communication in all German settlements. High German was used primarily in written form. Even at that time, few German Russians mastered the Russian language, and if they did, they spoke Russian only with strangers, but not among themselves.

Deportation changed this situation drastically, that is, dialects shared the fate of their speakers. Geographically oriented dialects of pre-war times ceased to exist because dialects and German Russian people were scattered across the whole of the gigantic territory of the eastern Soviet Union. Dialect regions shrank considerably because after the war German as everyday language was spoken only in the original German settlements in Siberia. It took decades for the dialects to recover to a minimal degree. After the years in the Trud Army [forced-labor camps], German Russians clustered together in new settlements within the deportation regions. In Siberia and Central Asia there emerged a new geography where the old home dialects could be spoken again.

Although, due to the many contacts between each other, German Russian dialects often contained elements of "mixing," it is astonishing to note that after so many migration paths, transplantings, and linguistic strokes of fate such as uprooting by deportation and foreign-language environments - the dialects remained surprisingly alive until the end.

Naturally, those German Russians who grew up and lived in the diaspora were able to speak their dialects only within the family. However, wherever German settlements still existed in proximity to each other, such as in the Omsk, Altai and Krasnoyarsk regions of Siberia and at specific points in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, German dialects remained fully functional and very much alive to the very end. These days in Germany, German Russian dialects stand out primarily by "sounding Russian." After all, two and half centuries of development in a Russian-language environment did not remain without its effects on the structure of the dialects. However, on closer inspection, the influence was not all that "alarming."

German Russian dialects do contain Russian nouns, often with German endings, and Russian verbs with German suffixes and prefixes. In Siberian villages, one's *povidle* [preserves, jam] were kept in *banke* [jars], folks shopped in the *lavke* [store] using a *sumke* [shopping bag] or a *setke* [mesh/net bag]. In the summer people wore *tapke* [flat footwear]; *chemodane* [suitcases] were simply *eipakuit* [packed] or *auskapuit* [unpacked]; and *draus uff de Shtroß hats burant* [out on the street a storm was raging; literally, *it was storming*].

In everyday language, one can say that German Russians "Germanized" certain Russian words, which in scientific terminology is called "linguistic integration of Russian words into the German dialect system." It is this particular characteristic which demonstrates the strength of the

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Dialects of the German Russians Migration Routes and Strokes of Fate

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German Russian dialects. They “swallowed” up some Russian, but despite those Russian words, they retained their basis—German syntax--and they were strong enough to adapt Russian words to the German structure.

Within specific language islands in Russia, dialects did survive, although in today’s Russia there are hardly any German dialects. In Germany as well, German Russian dialects have any chance of surviving most probably only among the elders. For future generations, German Russian dialects—in Germany as well as in Russia—may simply become a mere memorial of the past.

Prof. Dr. Nina Berend. Mannheim

This article may also be found in the Kalender 1914, [an extensive almanac] published by the Historical Research Association of Germans from Russia (HFDR). Contents of this almanac center on the social life of German Russians in 250 years of their history, as well as on the achievements of Germans in the Russian Empire and in the Soviet Union. Via thematic texts and pictures, historians and writers create a multi-layered image of the societal and economic life of Germans in the Tsarist Empire and in the succeeding Soviet Union.

**2014
AHSGR & Chapter
Dues are overdue.**

**If you have not
renewed your
membership
this will be your
last newsletter.**

AL JACOBS - A Brief History

By Al Jacobs

Frank Jacobs received this letter from a cousin in Wisconsin. It relates to his grandfather, Casper Jacobs and Magdalena Urban and his uncle Al. It is a fascinating history with much detail and trivia in topics of which he was never aware.

Al Jacobs was born on a farm in a small community west of Ellis, Kansas on September 1, 1914.

My father, immigrated from the Volga area, a great farming community, in Russia in 1892. A German people settled that area through the urging of the then Russian ruler, Catherine the Great. Later when Catherine the Great died and the czar took over Russia, the Volga Germans were not happy with the treatment they got so many of them started immigrating to America.

My father was 12 years old when he and his parents left Germany on the Queen Mary for America. My grandpa’s brother left on another ship at the same time, which was also bound for America. But somehow the ships got separated and one landed in South America, and the two brothers never saw each other again.

While living west of Ellis as a young man, my father used to go swimming with a neighbor, Walter Chrysler (the auto giant) in a country swimming hole in the pasture. Mr. Chrysler still has his homestead and museum in Ellis, Kansas.

In 1919 my father bought 1/2 section of prairie land 12 miles southwest of Hays, Kansas. After plowing much of that land with a sod buster and horses, which took several years, we kids had to go out in pastures to pick up buffalo bones with team and wagon. (these were the remains of earlier buffalo slaughters in that area). Remember Buffalo Bill? We then hauled wagon loads of bones to the town of Ellis. I remember well a negro man who was buying the bones and shipping them out east to be used for bone meal. The stack of bones along the railroad tracks was 10 to 15’ high and approximately 150’ long. Many farmers were bringing in bones at that time.

Another chore we had as kids was to go out in the pasture with the wagon and team and pick up cow chips, which were to be our fuel for cooking on the iron range. I can still hear my mother say, “Go out and bring in a basket of chips so I can finish supper.”

My father farmed with horses and we always had about 20 head. Some of the highlights of my boyhood were plowing the fields with about 5 sulky plows. One right after the other. Later we would harvest with header and barges, and then thresh in the fall. That was something to see the old threshing machine pulled by steam engine come into the neighborhood. The thresher would go from farm to farm and would thresh the farmers’ stacks of wheat.

The one room country school house where I went to school for eight years finally caved in from the seven to nine inches of dust accumulated in the attic from the dust bowl in the 30’s. I went to a country high school for two years, either on horseback or pony drawn cart. Later, my parents moved, due to the depression, drought and dust storms. I went to school one more year and was then forced to go to work for a rancher for \$30.00 a month to help support my parents.

On early 1934 I joined the CCC’s and received \$30.00 a month. \$25.00 was sent directly home to my parents and I kept \$5.00, which was ample spending money more than I had before. I was shipped along with 200 other Kansas boys to Lake City, Minnesota in April. We stayed in tents there for six months, doing mostly spillway and erosion work. In October our company was transferred to Ashland, Kansas. There we stayed 1 1/2 years building a dam across some bluffs, which is now a state lake. Our company

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VOLGA GERMAN TRADITIONS

BY LAWRENCE WEIGEL

Made available by the
Hays, Ks. Sunflower Chapter of the
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
Proceeds to benefit the local Chapter and International Society



VOLGA GERMAN TRADITIONS



by Lawrence Weigel

To order a copy send \$30.00 per book and \$5.00 for shipping and handling to:
Sunflower Chapter of AHSGR
2301 Canal Blvd,
Hays, Ks. 67601

45th International Convention of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

The Great Adventure Continues

JOIN US IN OUR celebration
of the 210th Anniversary of the
reissue of Catherine's Manifesto
by Tzar Alexander I on February
20, 1804, which invited foreigners
to settle in Russia. Come acknowl-
edge the Germans from Russia who
immigrated to the Americas, and in
doing so brought with them a rich
cultural and agricultural heritage.



July 7-13, 2014

The Cornhusker Hotel

333 S. 13th Street • Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

1-402-474-7474 - AHSGR Convention Group Room Rate of \$104.00 + taxes & Fees

For conference rates and registration deadlines, please visit ahsgr.org.



American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

*"Our past is in the archives and records from
villages in Russia, Ukraine and the Black Sea."*

**For more information or to become a member
call 402-474-3363 or visit us at www.ahsgr.org**

International Headquarters • 631 D St., Lincoln, NE 68502

NEWS FROM AHSGR HEADQUARTERS



Headquarters is always kept busy with the many projects that are in progress at headquarters. In January, Gail Ginrich has resigned as Editorials and Publications Coordinator. Tom Ineck, tomi@ahsgr.org has been hired to take her place. His first day was January 29th. He has many years of experience with writing, editing a public relations. His past experience includes the Lincoln Journal Star and the Nebraska Humanities Council. He will make a good addition to the staff at Head Quarters.

About a year ago we learned that AHSGR would be the beneficiary of the Arthur Flegal collection. Arthur has spent many years studying and information on the German-Russians from the Caucasus. An office has been designated as the special repository at Lincoln and the staff is busy preparing for the arrival of the many boxes of valuable research information. As soon as everything is catalogued and put in place a special place on the AHSGR website will be designated to this collection.

The large bequest that was given to AHSGR for documents pertaining to the village of Shcherbakovka is still an ongoing process and we continue to get pieces out a little at a time. The archives committee, which I chair, has been working this past fall obtaining a number of documents for AHSGR. The most recent item that may be of interest to Ellis County, Ks. Is the 1879 and 1920 family list for the village of Herzog, Russia. As soon as the document has been translated and compiled in to a book/monograph it will be available for either research in the AHSGR research library or available to buy. It is through the donation that our members give AHSGR that we are able to get these materials. Many donations are for specific villages and we try to obtain what we can with those funds, but then they must be translated, so that is where the translation fund at AHSGR is so very important. Please consider donating to these funds.

A new chapter in Colorado was organized and formally accepted in December, 2013 as a member chapter of AHSGR. The chapter has chosen the name, 'Colorado High Plains Chapter'.

There is a request regarding members in AHSGR chapters who collect obituaries and submit them to be added to the SOAR Obituary database. This also includes 'Life Events' - marriages, anniversaries, births and other events. The SOAR/Technology Review Committee is working to give recognition to those members who are (or, have been in the past) collecting and submitting these important genealogy records. We already have a number of members identified for recognition, but there are still remembers who submit directly to Headquarters in Lincoln, NE that need to be identified. Any questions on this my be directed to Mike Meisinger at mrm1970@aol.com or Jim Weibert at bjweib@surewest.net.

UPDATES TO ON-LINE GERMANIC ORIGINS INFORMATION

Dick Kraus has just sent the 2014 updates for the Germanic Origins (GO) information and hope to have these pages updated soon! The pages can be found at http://ahsgr.org/Find_Your_Ancestors/German_Origins.htm. Today, many people whose German ancestors settled in Russia are seeking their roots back in Germany. Some have been successful. Others are frustrated or need help. The GO project is being done with the cooperation of the AHSGR Village Coordinators and assembles in one place, to the extent possible, all information we know regarding the origins of Germans who settled in Russia. GO now contains over 6000,000 entries. If you have never or haven't recently looked at it, you should take a look.

Explore

German Heritage

Ellis County, Kansas



Events



Churches



Attractions

The annual "Explore German Heritage: Ellis County, Kansas" for 2014 has just been released. You may look at this brochure by following this link:

www.volgagerman.net/2014GermanFINAL.pdf

**KANSAS ROUND-UP
OF
CHAPTERS
Saturday, October 11, 2014**

**Hays Oktoberfest
Friday, October 10, 2014**

**Whiskey Creek
Hays, Ks.
Hosted by the Wichita Chapter**

**Watch for
more information**

OUR CHAPTER WON 2ND PLACE. CAN WE DO THIS
AGAIN OR REACH 1ST PLACE FOR 2014???
I THINK WE CAN!!!



INTERNATIONAL

10th AH\$GR Membership Campaign

July 13, 2013 - May 15, 2014

EACH ONE - REACH ONE

The Membership Campaign rewards AH\$GR members and chapters who recruit new members for AH\$GR or purchase gift memberships for new members*. Cash prizes will be awarded at the 2014 Convention. Membership Data Forms are available through 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 largest number of new members*
- *\$75 to the AH\$GR member AND \$150 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 2nd largest number of new members*
- *\$50 to the AH\$GR member AND \$100 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 3rd largest number of new members*
- *A \$25 cash prize to 3 new members selected at random.*

New Members are Critical to the Growth and Success of AHSGR

Every Member Counts - Talk to your Family & Friends - Tell your community about AHSGR - Buy a Gift Membership for someone

79% of New Members Join Because Someone Asked Them!

**If EACH ONE of us strives to REACH ONE
new AHSGR member, we help to assure the
future of AHSGR**

* 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Reward Winners must have recruited the following number of new members for AHSGR:
AHSGR members, 5 or greater; and Chapters, 10 or greater.

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

**UPCOMING MEETING
DATES for 2013 - 2014**

Munjor Parish Hall
Munjor, Ks.

Sunday, February 23, 2014

Fasnacht Meeting

Board Members will provide soup.

*Video-Faces of Russia: The Volga German
Genealogy: Bring your family histories*

Sunday, May 4, 2014

Spring Meeting

AHSGR Convention - Lincoln, NE

Thurs., July 10 - Sun., July 13, 2014

Sunday, August 10, 2014

Sunflower 'Picnic'

Sunday, September 14, 2014

*Chapter Breakfast Fundraiser
VFW - Hays - 7:30am - 12:30pm*

Saturday, October 11, 2014

*Kansas Round-Up of chapters
Hays, Ks. - Wichita Host Chapter
Whiskey Creek - Days Inn*

Sunday, December 14, 2014

*Christmas Party
Fundraiser Banquet*



JUST RELEASED.....

**1857 Census of Louis
In the
District of Samara, Russia**

Dated October 1857

Translated by Viktor Pink
Edited by Brent Mai

Cost - \$50.00

You may order this through -
Kevin Rupp
krupp@ruraltel.net or

Brent Mai
bmai@cu-portland.edu

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AL JACOBS - A Brief History By Al Jacobs

was later transferred to Oberlin, Kansas, and another company took over to finish the job.

I met my wife, Millie in 1935 in Kansas at camp. Mildred was born on a farm near Sitka, Kansas on April 7, 1913. They moved into Sitka, where here father was a manager of a grain elevator. They bought a farm four miles west of town, where she lived most of her life. Mildred graduated from high school in Ashland, four miles west of her home. Her father was still manager of the elevator.

My duty in camp was driving the army truck. Our camp was located twenty miles from town and I took the mess sergeant to town daily to get rations and the mail.

Millie worked at the county court house. It seems that fate had us meet at a Post Office, where we picked up mail at the same time. The rest is history. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in 1986.

Mildred and I raised our family in Menasha, Wisconsin, where I was in the used car business until we retired in 1976. We have four children. Annette, the oldest, is married to Ronald Treichel, a retired Air Force man; Walter is married to Kathy and they now own the auto business that was formerly mine. We have twin daughters, Ruth and Rhoda. Ruth and her husband, Leonard Glodowski manage a Best Western motel in Parkersburg, W. Va. Rhoda is married to Roy Benedict, and both work for Kimberly Clark paper company.

I got interested in cars in about 1924. My father bought his first Model T. My uncle had a Reo. Oh, how we loved that car. My father would rather drive the Model T's than repair them. He always had a man from town come out every time he overhauled them. We loved to watch this. I used to think, as a kid, the more he could make the valves squeal with brace and bit, the better job he was doing. Later, as we learned more about mechanics, we would play tricks on Dad, such as turning the coils around. For quite some time, Dad didn't catch on and know why the car was missing.

Two years ago, we went back to the old homestead and picked up parts of discarded Model T's (that we probably drove back then), such as headlights and the dash. They were still in good shape.

I started in the car business in 1945 and traded in many old cars at that time, but didn't know enough to hang on to some. We joined HCCA in 1956 and we'll always love old cars.

Since my retirement, we are enjoying life in Mountain View, Arkansas. We love music a lot and there is so much music there, that we feel "we have died and gone to heaven".

The Sunflower Chapter of Ellis County, Kansas in conjunction with the Ellis, Kansas Bukovina Society present a NEW (sort of) DVD.

*Cost of DVD \$25.00
Sold by the Bukovina Society and the
AHSGR Sunflower Chapter*

*To Order, Send \$25.00 to
Sunflower Chapter
c/o Kevin Rupp
2301 Canal Blvd
Hays, Ks. 67601*



A great experience for younger people at Christmas this year would be the home showing DVD of *Christmas Customs of the Old Country*. Videotaped in 1997 by members of the Bukovina Society and the Sunflower Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, it features authentic costumes, songs and skits of early German Christmas traditions.

Speakers Include: Oren Windholz, Leona Pfeifer, Pastor Lyle Knuth.
Fr. Kevin Weber and a number chapter members.



2014 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 Member benefits, voting rights & Open Access SOAR*, and receives, special notices and annual appeals except NO Journals, Newsletters or Clues. This includes national & local dues.
- _____ **\$60.00 Standard Annual Membership** - Includes all Member benefits, voting rights & Open Access SOAR*, and receives, special notices, annual appeals including Journals, Newsletters except NO Clues. This includes national & local dues.
- _____ **\$110.00 Premium/Contributing Annual Membership** - Includes all member benefits, voting rights, Open Access & Members Only SOAR* & receives convention notices, special notices & annual appeals including Journals, Newsletters & Clues. This includes national & local dues.
- _____ **\$10.00 Local Dues Only** (International Dues have already been paid to headquarters or I am a Life Member)

If new member, how did you hear about AHSGR?

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

Name of referring Chapter or 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
2223 Felten Dr.
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 **Genealogical Data COMMunication**. **Important consideration:** To be listed/published in **Clues**, do not select the "Privacy Option" on the printable **Membership Application and Data Form**.
2. ***Save Our Ancestral Records (SOAR)**, with no fee or masking of search results. **Open Access SOAR** is accessible be all members & non-members. **Members Only SOAR** is **Open Access SOAR** plus additional research data that will be available to authorized membership levels sometime in mid-2014. See the SOAR description at <http://www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm>

UNSERER LEUTE IM BILD - Kennen Sie diesen Leute???

This inquiry was sent to us via Frank Jacobs about the Klaus family from Hays. Can anyone help with this search?

If so contact Frank Jacobs at Fjacobs@cox.net or Kevin Rupp at krupp@ruraltel.net



Fred Klaus & Grace, Dorothea & unidentified man

Do you know of any other Klaus relatives?

One of Johannes Klaus youngest was Ferdinand Klaus (went by "Fred") - born July 2 1898 who my dad was super close to. I found him in Hays when he was young 1910 census and then in New York in the 1940 census... married to Grace (do not know her maiden name or previous married name).

I know after Grace died - he married Graces daughter (Dorothea B -who sold infant blankets for a company in NY called Fuld Bros) from the previous marriage. We visited them once when I was very young in New York. I know Fred Klaus was a chef - and I believe brought distressed restaurants in NY back to life.

My sister and I were going through our dad's things - and ran into pictures of Fred Klaus - (Ferdinand) and was hoping someone could tell us who the other man in the picture is. We believe the man on the far left is Fred Klaus and then his wife Grace- her daughter Dorothea.. but do not know who the man is in the far right.

Might you know anything about Fred or know someone in the Klaus family that might? or might know the unknown man in photo?

Thank you!

SUNFLOWER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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