

# Newsletter

Fall 2008

vol. 11, issue 4



Sunflower Chapter  
of the American  
Historical Society  
of Germans  
from Russia

Dec. 7 is our  
Christmas meeting



Next  
MEETING

Oct. 19

SOCIAL...12:00  
POTLUCK DINNER...12:30  
PROGRAM...1:30

Our October meeting will feature a potluck dinner because the annual fund-raising dinner has been moved to December. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

The main program will consist of a new DVD you won't want to miss, "Through the Red Gate." It tells the true story of a German Mennonite family from Russia. Peter Barga was just seven years old when he and his immediate family narrowly escaped the Soviet gulag and almost-certain death. His relatives who remained behind in the USSR, however, were not so fortunate. During Joseph Stalin's reign of terror from 1929 to 1953, between 45 and 60 million people perished. Now, in a story that crosses continents and binds together generations, the discovery of a cache of rare and long-forgotten letters reveals the terrifying details of the Barga family's fate.

In addition to this DVD, Kevin Rupp will give a short presentation explaining how AHSGR Village Coordinators can help you research your roots.

To get to the parish hall in Antonino, take US-183 south from Hays for 5.6 miles, then turn west onto Antonino Road and drive another 3.9 miles. Once you get to Antonino, you'll see the church on your left.

Frank Jacobs of Topeka brought Waldemar Kiesner, his summertime visitor, to the chapter picnic. Waldemar is a naturalized German whose roots go back to the villages of Kamenka and Pfeifer.



## Annual summer picnic draws special visitor from Germany

by Judy Hoffman

IT'S NOT EVERY YEAR THAT THE CHAPTER'S SUMMER PICNIC INCLUDES a guest speaker. On August 17, however, Frank Jacobs of Topeka brought Waldemar Kiesner to Antonino to make a presentation to the members of the Sunflower Chapter.

Frank had met Waldemar some years ago when he traveled to Germany to search out more of his family's genealogy. Waldemar, then twelve years old, is now 24. Earlier this year, Waldemar contacted Frank with a desire to spend the summer months in America, and Frank helped him make all the necessary arrangements.

Waldemar is a "GRG"--a German from Russia re-settled in Germany. In 1993 when he was nine, he left Russia for Germany with his family. At that time, inflation in Siberia was rampant, and food was scarce and rationed. His mother had a medical problem with her eyes and believed German doctors could provide better treatment.

It took the family two to three years to receive permission to leave Russia, but  
*(continued on p. 4)*



(Left) A stuffed deer and stuffed boar show some of the wildlife that's native to the Volga. (Above) The author stands in front of a painting of Catherine the Great, whose invitation brought at least 20,000 Germans to Russia between 1764 and 1767.

## Pt. 2 My first trip to the Volga

by Norma (Reichert) Pipkin

*ED. NOTE: In Part 2, we continue with Norma's description of June 12, 1998, her first full day in Marx. She has just been invited to visit the town's historical museum*

We spent two hours going through the museum. Our guide was a young Russian man, 20 years old, whose mother was a Schmidt from Katerinenstadt. This young man spoke only Russian and represented to me the new generation--such as we also have in Ellis County, Kansas. The younger generation here has totally assimilated the Russian culture as we have, the American culture.

The Volga German Museum in Marx opened in 1995. Here are things we learned about:

- Crops grown in the area that were introduced by the Germans: wheat, potatoes, coffee
- The 1763 Manifesto of Catherine the Great
- The 1765 founding of Katerinenstadt
- Maps of the colonists' route: overland through Germany to a port on the Baltic Sea, across the sea to St. Petersburg, overland to Saratov (at least three to four months of travel done in wintertime), further trips from Saratov to various settlement sites 30-50 miles to the Northeast and South
- Implements of early colonists
- Kitchen, bedroom, and living room furniture
- Dress of early colonists
- Milk separator, butter churn, sausage maker
- Katerinenstadt's lace making and crafts and furniture made of straw
- Katerinenstadt's granaries and barges, its three flour mills built by Germans (one still in operation)

- The town's three Christian churches: Orthodox, Lutheran, Catholic
- Prayer books and Bibles of the colonists (one of them handwritten)
- Information on Katerinenstadt's last Lutheran pastor, David Fischer, who was shot along with his two brothers, a teacher, and a museum director
- Old photos of Katerinenstadt
- The great famine of 1920, in which at least 70,000 died of starvation
- Lenin's creation of the Volga German Autonomous Republic in 1918
- The town's social life, including its theaters, schools, museums, newspapers
- The 1941 evacuation of Germans to Siberia on the basis of rumors and lies that they were spying on Russian troops, stockpiling weapons, etc. to help with Hitler's intended invasion
- Published orders allowing Russians to take for themselves the belongings of the exiled Germans
- One Volga German who distinguished himself as a war hero despite the Soviet government's persecution of his people
- The wildlife of the area
- Life on the Volga steppes 200,000 years ago
- The history of the Soviet Union and its fifteen republics
- Soviet MIGs and other aircraft
- The avant-garde art that had been banned under communism

*(to be continued)*

Fall 2008



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

THE LACROSSE REPUBLICAN  
May 20, 1915

We note that Mrs. Mary Dreher is quite sick.

Mike Legleiter will soon complete his bungalow.

Jacob Peifer is putting up a house on the farm.

Pauline Jacobs is working for John Schlitter at Loretto.

Peter Schaffer has been hauling posts to erect a fence.

Joe Heronema of La Crosse, was here Thursday of last week.

Adam Herrmann will soon ride with that big smile in a Ford.

Father Wenzel spent Sunday afternoon with Father Stollenwerk.

John Dreher and stepson Benedict from Schoenehen, were here Sunday.

John Yeoman is spending a few weeks visiting in Oklahoma with relatives.

Jacob Urban and sister Lena, from Pfeifer, were here Sunday visiting friends.

Godfried Randa and his wife are at Excelsior Springs, where Mrs. R. goes for treatment.

R.C. Jeffries has done a good piece of work here for the community by fixing the roads in good shape.

Mr. Ingonteus and son Weaver, with stepdaughter Mary Bassgall, from Hays, were here Sunday visiting with relatives.

Joe Kreutzer who has been taking treatment at Excelsior Springs, has returned and seems much improved in health.

The Farmers Union had a special county meeting at LaCrosse. They expect soon to erect an elevator at LaCrosse for the benefit of the farmers in the Union.

A sad accident happened when John, the son of Alexander Depperschmidt, fell from a scaffold at Jacob Pfeifer's when helping on the barn. He broke one of his arms and badly bruised one of his legs.

## First volume of new Volga German trilogy now on sale

Brent Mai has written to inform us of a new book available from The Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. Entitled *Catherine* and penned by Sigrid Weidenweber, it is the first in a trilogy about the Volga Germans. The second volume entitled *The Volga Germans* is scheduled for release on December 1, 2008. The third volume, *From Gulag to Freedom*, is scheduled for release on April 1, 2009.

### Ordering information

You can order all three volumes now at a discounted rate of \$80.00, including shipping. For \$29.95, also including shipping, you can order the first volume by itself, which is now available. To order, make a check payable in US funds to Concordia University, and send it to:

The Center for Volga German Studies  
Concordia University  
2811 NE Holman Street  
Portland, OR 97007

To order by credit card, call 503-280-8505.

### About the book

"You look astonishingly pretty," admits Johanna when Sophia steps out of her bedroom dressed in Ulrika's magnificent gown. Sophia is stunned, halting in mid-step. This is rare praise from her cold mother, so she must, indeed, look very good. At Frederick's side during the elaborate court dinner, Sophia shines and sparkles with youth and wit. The monarch is very pleased with his choice. Indeed, he is so enamored with the girl that he opens

his purse to outfit mother and daughter, both woefully deficient in material matters appropriate for court life."

So begins the transformation of Princess Sophia of Anhalt-Zerbst into Catherine the Great of Russia. The personal and professional triumphs and tribulations of this remarkable woman are retold by Sigrid Weidenweber, whose research into the life of Catherine reveals a new perspective on the storied monarch. Sigrid portrays with heartfelt understanding what it was like to have been such a major European political, military, social, and cultural figure during the eighteenth century.

### About the author

Born in Germany in 1941, Sigrid Weidenweber remembers firsthand the horrific aftermath of fascism. At the



end of the war, she found herself living under communism. Both of these totalitarian regimes left indelible marks on her psyche. After the Berlin Wall was built, she finally escaped this repressive environment with the help of friends and a French passport. Her wide range of interests led to the writing of the trilogy, *The Volga Flows Forever*.

# Special guest from Germany

*(continued from p.1)*

first they had to prove their German origins. Once in Germany, the immigrants were housed for two weeks in a large gymnasium. Not until 18 months later did his father find work; he was 45 at the time. In the beginning, Waldemar's family seriously considered moving back to Russia.

Waldemar's grandparents were born in Kamenka and Pfeifer in the Volga region. During WWII they were sent to labor camps almost 3000 miles away, in northern Siberia. His grandmother was seventeen and already married. After reaching Siberia, families were separated and sent to different camps. Weather and camp conditions were severe. Many died. When prisoners were released after five to seven years, his grandparents reunited. They had to live in a village in Siberia and were not allowed to leave for any reason without special permission. As a result of the strict regulations, they lost a daughter when they couldn't get her to a doctor. Waldemar's grandparents remained there until Germans were allowed to leave Russia.

The family's acceptance in Germany was mixed. Some referred to them as Russians; they said that because their families had lived in Russia for more than 250 years, it made them all Russians.

Waldemar had to learn "textbook German" at school. Luckily he was given extra help and tutelage from caring teachers. In Germany third-grade students begin taking English, and a third language is required starting in seventh grade.

Waldemar now has German citizenship and has served his required nine months in the military. He lives in a small town where he attends Siegen University. He is studying history, social science, and English and plans to be a teacher. He came here to brush up on his English and to experience life in America. Included in his summer plans was spending a week in Liebenthal, Kansas, the first Volga German settlement in this area. Its current population is approximately 160.

When asked about being an immigrant trying to blend into a new country, he expressed something a professor of his teaches and writes about. Immigration will not work unless you have unity and diversity. Unity is the first requirement, and it involves obeying the laws of the country you've entered and learning its language. Immigrants should learn and speak the language of the country-- in school, the workplace, and the marketplace. That is necessary in order to prevent misunderstanding. Then once the laws and language are mastered, continue the heritage and tradition of your family. As an example, he said that when he is in Germany with his Russian friends, they always speak German when around other Germans because that is the language of the land.

## Waldemar's Week with Us

Those who spoke with Waldemar during the week he spent in Liebenthal had a chance to learn much more about him.

He said his great-grandfather had owned a stone masonry business when the communists took over Russia. They took the businessman out to the street in front of his shop and killed him. The reason given was that he was too rich. No one was allowed to bury him.

Another great-grandfather was sent to a forced labor camp because someone who apparently was unhappy with something told authorities that the man had spoken badly about Stalin. Then already in his seventies, he was sentenced to ten years of hard labor and died in the camp.

Waldemar very much enjoyed being here in an area rich with German tradition. He said the churches around this area are of the same Gothic design you still see in Germany. He enjoyed conversing in German with the locals.

He wanted to lend a helping hand while in Liebenthal, so his host, Bob Pfeifer, put him to work digging potatoes and beets in a garden and cleaning fish caught on two different fishing trips at a farmer's pond.

As Waldemar drove down the dirt roads of the Kansas countryside, he commented on the scarcity of vehicles. He said that in Germany on such a drive you would pass hundreds of vehicles because the country is densely populated.



Waldemar enjoyed an all-day visit to the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson. He took lots of pictures that he hopes to show his students someday. The museum's political cartoons from the 1960s, when the USA was in a space race with Russia, especially amused him. Here, Bob Pfeifer of Liebenthal stands with Waldemar in front of the Cosmosphere's outdoor statue of an astronaut.

## OVERHEARD

--This tongue-in-cheek item appeared in the LaCrosse Republican on June 3, 1915: "It is said that three of the stingiest men in the state were here yesterday. One of them will not drink as much water as he wants unless it is from another man's well. The second one forbids any of his family from writing anything but a 'small hand' as it is a waste of ink to make large letters. The third stops his

clock at night to save wear and tear of the machinery. All of them decline to take the county paper on the grounds that it is a strain on their spectacles to read newspapers, even in the day time."

--And on a more serious note, this was noted in the paper three days later: "Probably the greatest destruction by a wind storm was that wrought in Galveston, Tex.,

Sept. 8, 1900, when 9,000 lives were lost, and property valued at \$30,000,000 was suddenly destroyed. If there has ever been a worse storm we have no record of it."

--On the same date, but on a lighter note: "Much butter is imported from Denmark," wrote an English schoolgirl, "because Danish cows have greater enterprise and superior technical education to ours."

## Life Sketches of Early Agnesians

by Sister Alice Ann Pfeifer CSA

Sister Hortulana Leiker was the fifth Agnesian sister originating from Kansas to die and the 117th overall.

What her obituary calls her "doubts about her vocation" during her early years in Wisconsin invites speculation. Doubts were common in the 1800s among newcomers to the convent life--especially among Volga German women for whom becoming a vowed sister had not become a possibility until they came to America. Sister Hortulana simply may have been more up-front and honest about her doubts than most new entrants.

She also may have worried about who would care for her parents as they got older. Her only living sister, Katherine, had also entered the Agnesians and taken the name of "Aquina." Four other Leiker children had died before reaching adulthood. That Sister Hortulana's father lived to a ripe old age is evident from a 1926 photo showing the surviving pioneers of Munjor.

A few things we know for sure about the humble and dedicated life of Sister Hortulana. She clearly was Mother Agnes Hazotte's favorite cook. Mother Agnes became the community's first elected superior general in 1864. In the fall of 1904 Mother Agnes decided to spend the winter in a southern location for personal health reasons.

### *Sr. Hortulana Leiker, 1869-1919*

Sister M. Hortulana, Anna Leiker, was born on February 5, 1869, at Munjor, Russia. Her parents were Nicholous Leiker and Anna M. Schmelzer.

She entered the Convent on November 2, 1887; was admitted to the novitiate on January 21, 1890; to first temporary vows on January 21, 1891; to second vows on August 13, 1894; to perpetual vows on July 16, 1900.

Sister was destined for domestic work, wherein she was self sacrificing and reliable. During the early years of her religious life, our Sister was tried with doubts about her vocation. By the grace of God she in time overcame the temptation and found true happiness in her holy calling.

After profession Sister was employed as cook in the Convent kitchen for several years. Later she was sent to Kansas where she worked on several missions, and lastly at the Hospital. Here she was ingenious in satisfying the wants of the suffering, by preparing palatable dishes for them.

From the time of her profession our Sister was subjected to much suffering. Pain in the feet caused difficulty in walking; her face was disfigured by painful eczema; hands and feet were crippled by rheumatism.

While engaged in active work our Sister was suddenly overtaken by influenza and death ensued after three days of intense suffering. Sister was well prepared and accepted death with resignation on March 2, 1919.

Sister was interred at Munjor, Kansas. R.I.P.

Even she, however, did not realize how sick she really was. She headed to Texas with a group of sisters who could help her carry on all her usual work, albeit away from the sisters' motherhouse in Wisconsin. Included in the entourage of five traveling with Mother Agnes was Sister Hortulana, chosen to be the group's cook.

Unfortunately, their journey came to a halt when they got as far as Hays, Kansas, for Mother Agnes by then was too sick to go any further. So it was Sister Hortulana who prepared all of Mother Agnes' meals until her death in Hays the following spring.

Four years later, the Beach house where the group of travelers had stayed became the site of St. Anthony's Hospital, established by Mother Antonia to keep a promise Mother Agnes had made to the people of Hays before dying. Sister Hortulana became the hospital's first cook, a post that she kept until exposure to the Spanish flu took her life a decade later.

Today a historical marker on West 13th Street witnesses to the colorful history of the old family mansion that became Hays' first hospital once the building had passed into the hands of the pioneering Sisters of St. Agnes.



Pt. 2

## Jacob Brull, Kansas pioneer

by Francis King

*ED. NOTE: In part one, we left off with young Jacob Brull and his family finally leaving Bremen, Germany, in the fall of 1877. They are headed for South America on a small steamship accomodating about 300 passengers.*

**T**HEIR FIRST STOP AFTER THEY LEFT HAMBURG was Lisbon, Portugal. They stopped at Lisbon for three days. Here is where the cargo of horses and cattle was taken on. The people objected to the loading of the stock, but they were glad to have the transportation to America, so their objection was easily overruled. It was rather uncomfortable traveling in this way, but it was all they could get, and they were not the sort to turn it down.

The trip across the Atlantic was satisfactory to everyone. The food was plentiful and very good. This was the best part of the entire voyage. There was, however, one objection that everyone had, and that was the lice. The boat was infested with them, and that made the traveling very uncomfortable most of the time. The lice could be seen crawling on the walls, floors, ceilings, or wherever one chose to look for them. It was the most uncomfortable part of the whole trip.

The first stop then was Bica. The cargo was unloaded, some passengers were dismissed, and a new cargo was loaded. This operation took approximately two days. The vessel then moved on to Rio de Janeiro, where some more passengers made their exit and some new ones embarked. Then the ship proceeded. The next stop was Sanctus, which was

their destination. Here, Mr. Brull and his family had planned to make their home. They received a very warm welcome from the friends they had there. This made them very happy. But the Brulls did not stay in Sanctus very long. They decided to go back to Rio de Janeiro, and there to make their home. They found a house and decided to move in at once. It was so much better than what they had in Russia, that they thanked God for allowing them to reach there safely.

As soon as they were settled, Jacob started scouting around for a job. The best he could do was a job as a bellhop in a hotel. He took the work, not knowing exactly what he would have to do. He was given a uniform to wear on duty. It was one of those high-class, stiff-collar outfits. He didn't like the work at all, mainly because it was an inside job and he had been working outdoors all his life. He worked for two days, and at the end of this time he gave the uniform to his father to

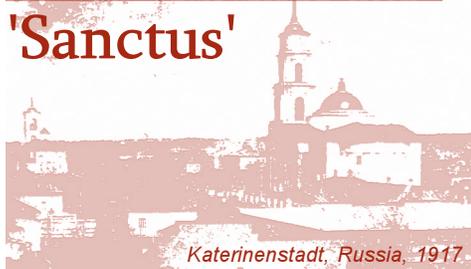
take back to the hotel. He had already had enough of this kind of work. Once more he was on the lookout for a job. In the spring of 1878 he was hired as a hand on a shipping boat. His first trip, and the one he remembered the best, took him around Cape Horn to Chile. He was only sixteen years old then, but the rest of the crew were about the same age. They were young, strong boys and they all loved the sea. There were about fifty-five boys on the boat and they comprised the crew. The captain was a kind old gentleman in his middle fifties with a great liking for his boys. He knew them all well and would not allow them to do anything at which they might get hurt. When they left Rio de Janeiro, it was warm, and they had no reason to take extra clothing. But when they reached Chile, they wished they had brought some warm clothing, for it was winter there. They made leggings out of palm tree leaves, and the rest of their clothing was made warmer in the same way.

*(to be continued)*



South American visitors, along with their American hosts, dropped by St. Joseph's Church in Hays this summer. Pictured are Clara Elsasser, Isabel Kessler, Delia Sturtz, Leona Pfeifer, Jan Siebert, and Maria Spahn. The men standing behind them are Capuchin Father Gilmary Tallman, pastor of St. Joseph's, and Jerry Siebert, President of the AHSGR.

## 'Sanctus'



Katerinenstadt, Russia, 1917.

Heilig, heilig, heilig,  
heilig ist der Herr.  
Heilig, heilig, heilig,  
heilig ist nur er!  
Er, der nie begonnen,  
er der immer war,  
ewig ist und waltet,  
sein wird immer dar.

Holy, holy, holy,  
holy is the Lord!  
Holy, holy, holy,  
holy is his word!  
He has no beginning,  
he has always been,  
always is and rules,  
always he will be.

**Members, take note! Beginning with our Oct. 17 meeting, we will always use the hymn featured in our latest newsletter as our opening prayer.**

## A history of Brazil's Volga Germans, pt. 5

The following is extracted from the book *Resumo Histórico e Genealogia dos Alemães do Volga* ("Historical Summary and Genealogy of the Volga Germans") by Carlos Alberto Schwab. It was edited in 1997 on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of the immigration of the Volga Germans to Brazil. Kevin Rupp procured this manuscript for us.

After moving to the city, some of the men became woodcutters, while the women looked for sand in the river's margins to be sold in the city. The sand was used by spreading it in fine layers on the floors of the residences. This kind of floor didn't need oil--and very little wax--to maintain cleanliness in the places with much foot traffic, such as kitchens and corridors. However, in Ponta Grossa during that time, how many houses needed to be built?

As for firewood, there were bushes everywhere. One only needed to grab an axe and put forth a little effort to have firewood ready for use. And the sand? It was still easier to get, for it was only a short walk to the rivers of the area. The wealthiest families had slaves and they didn't need to do any work except give orders. However, circumstances were not good for common laborers.

The local society, thinking of the Volga Germans as dirty pigs, discriminated against them. Furthermore, the other people of Ponta Grossa remained withdrawn from people who came from the outside, even moreso when the foreigners were poor. If the

Germans had been rich, maybe their reception would have been very different. The same thing happens today with prosperous people who encounter poor people coming from other places.

The rich of nineteenth-century Brazil had only the work of maintaining what they possessed and increasing the amount their children would inherit, while the poor Volga Germans could reach prosperity only through their own perspiration. Today, many of the pioneers' descendants are part of the Ponta Grossa society, but it still remains so full of prejudice that those of Volga German extraction do not want to be reminded of their roots. And to think of all that their ancestors had suffered exactly because of such hypocrisy!

The Volga Germans' failure was the fault of the land and of the government and not of the Volga German farmers themselves. Those who did not leave farming to become woodcutters, coachmen, and other tradesmen largely departed from Brazilian soil. Most of these went to Argentina, and a smaller group, to

Nevada and other parts of the United States.

Some men were hired by the government for road construction. Others became shoemakers and carpenters in the city, while still others began the opening of coach traffic across the precarious highways that tied Curitiba with the western part of the country. In high vehicles drawn by eight horses, the men brought materials from the interior to the exporters and consumers of Ponta Grossa, Curitiba, and Antonina. They returned to the interior with various consumer goods. When time allowed, they formed convoys of twenty to thirty coaches and spent a month on the trip between Antonina and Guarapuava.

Eventually modern trucks eliminated such primitive means of transportation, but nothing in the history of Paraná can change what the heroic Volga Germans settlers accomplished through their vigorous energy, inexhaustible patience, and absolute seriousness!

*(to be continued)*

## ELLIS COUNTY FARMER October 23, 1952

Larry Rohr, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence P. Rohr, 204 E. 17th Street, was released unharmed by a car thief who forced the lad to accompany him several miles. The family car, a black 1936 Chevrolet coach, is still missing.

Larry saw the man get into his father's car,

parked back of the Hays Flour Mill. When he asked the man as to his intentions, the car thief grabbed the boy by the arm and forced him into the car. Larry says the car turned north off the highway past the airport. After the boy was released, he ran home as soon as possible.

He described the car thief as middle-aged with brown hair wearing dirty gray pants and a dark coat and carried either a suitcase or a bundle.

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

Winter Hours:  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Tuesday-Friday.  
Closed Saturday, Sunday, Monday.  
Admission: Adults, \$4. Children 3-12, \$1.

Visit us at [www.elliscountyhistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.elliscountyhistoricalmuseum.org)



## Why attend this year's *Kansas* Round-Up of Chapters?



--To be honest, it's **pay-back time**. What would we have done without the help of the Golden Wheat Chapter when we hosted the international convention last year? They host this year's Round-Up.

--October 25 is coming soon. Karen Penner says the

deadline to get your hotel reservation at Best Western in Park City **has been extended** to October 10. Don't delay! Give them a call today at 316-832-9387.

--The special AHSGR bargain hotel rate of \$70 for two **includes a full breakfast**. Be sure to mention the AHSGR when you call.

--Do you **enjoy hearing stories** from people who were born in Russia? Then you'll want to hear Frieda Nickel's presentation.

--Leonard Schoenberger will be a presenter, and everyone knows **how fun that will be!**

--The banquet speaker, Harold Popp, is **another great entertainer**. We have the word of Karen Penner on this, and when has Karen Penner ever told anyone a fib?!

--Attention, all singles and/or lousy bakers. How often do you get a chance to sample and buy **authentic Volga German baked goods** while benefitting the AHSGR at the same time?

--The convention is **easy to get to**. Just take exit 13 off I-35.

--If you have misplaced your registration form, no problem. Just call **Leonard Schoenberger at 785-726-4917** and say, "Count me in!" You can pay your \$10 fee at the door between 8:00 and 9:00 in the morning. Add \$8 for lunch and \$23.50 for the banquet if you plan to stay through the evening.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all!

The September 14 VFW-Sunflower Chapter fund-raiser breakfast was a great success! The VFW members served a very good breakfast buffet. We received numerous good comments on the tasty food. We appreciate the members who made the extra effort to get advance tickets sold. We had 346 tickets turned in at the breakfast. Our treasurer Elmer will have the financial success report at our October 19 meeting.

A great big thank you to all our volunteers who helped sell advance tickets, serve coffee and juice, and clean tables at the breakfast.

We started our annual raffle at the breakfast. With this newsletter we are including a sheet of tickets to all members. You may sell them to your neighbors and friends and bring the tickets and money to the October 19 meeting. Or you may mail them to Elmer Dreher at 1319 McArthur Drive, Hays, KS 67601. Tickets will be available at our October 19 meeting and again at our December 7 annual fund-raising banquet. We will hold the drawing for the six winners at the December meeting.

Kevin Rupp will provide the folklore program at the October meeting. He has prepared a presentation on the Volga German villages of Ellis County and more.

The food for our October meeting will be pot luck. We ask all members to bring a favorite dish to share.

Agnes and I will not be at the October meeting. We will be visiting our daughter Patricia and husband Roger on a two-week Princess Cruise through the Panama Canal and Caribbean. We do not get the opportunity to visit them often because they live in Mobile, Alabama.

Our Vice-President Leonard Schoenberger will conduct the October meeting in our absence. Leonard is chair of the Round-Up of Chapters to be held in Wichita on October 25, and he will need your help. He needs bingo workers and bakers. Dolores Pfannenstiel is operating the bake sale, an important fund-raiser for the Round-Up. All of you received a letter about the Round-Up in early September. This is a good opportunity to enjoy a visit with other chapter members, have a good time, and at the same time relax in Wichita overnight.

Enjoy the meetings while we are gone. Keep up the good work in behalf of the Sunflower Chapter. See you in December!

--Joe Werth

Please remember  
in prayer all chapter members who  
have been sick or hospitalized  
since our last meeting.

# A.H.S.G.R. needs YOUR help!

ATTENTION all V.C.'s, genealogists, and anyone else who is interested in knowing more information about our ancestors who settled in Russia.

## "INVENTORY OF LOST RECORDS OF THE SARATOV OFFICE OF FOREIGNSETTLERS FOR THE YEARS 1723-1868, Volume 2"

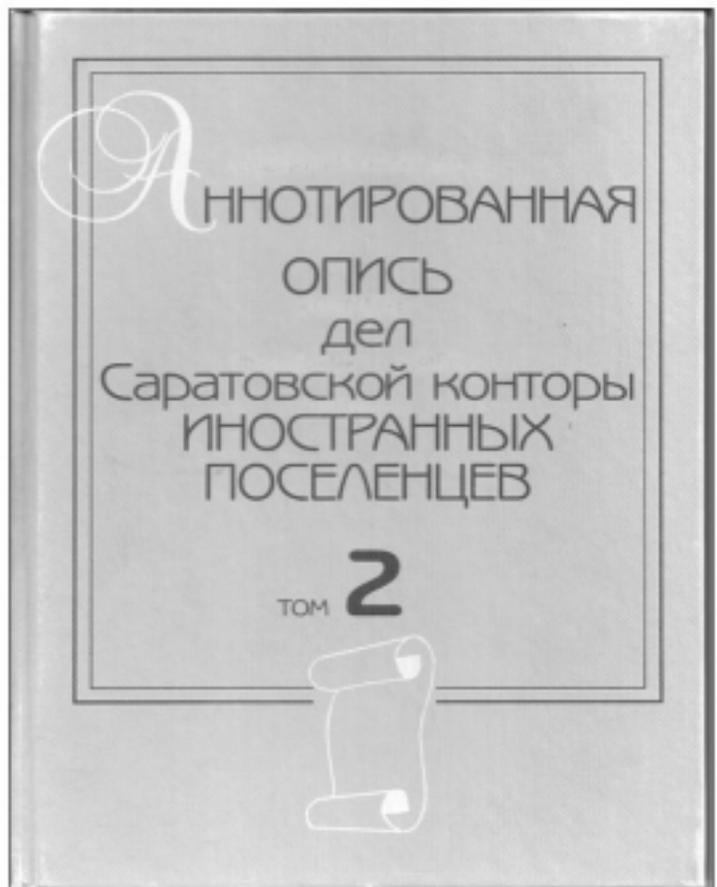
The book itself was written by Dr. Igor Pleve and is number two in a series.  
*Do you want to know what transpired in the Volga villages during this period of time?*  
The "INVENTORY" gives a short synopsis of events that occurred in the Volga Villages.

- Movements between villages
- Permission to build homes
- Theft of horses
- Probate matters
- Orphans after the head of household died
- Settlement of fights
- Recouping money debts
- Family disputes
- When churches were built
- Theft of money
- Exaction of money debts
- Building of mills
- Drownings
- And many more!

The entries state the name of the village, the persons involved and the date.

As we all know the translation from Russian and publication of this book costs money so we ask for donations. The book is in the process now of being translated.

Donations designated "INVENTORY" will be collected and sent to headquarters in Lincoln.



Sunflower Chapter  
c/o Elmer Dreher  
1319 MacArthur Rd.  
Hays, Ks. 67601

Please be sure to mark your donation "Inventory List"

# Keep the GOOD TIMES rolling!

We've had **quite a year** in the Sunflower Chapter of the AHSGR!

Members stepped forward with **never-before-published information** for our chapter newsletter, and AHSGR members in Topeka and Liebenthal made possible **the visit of Waldemar Kiesner** to our area.

We've eaten **homemade German foods** cooked and shared among us. We've re-enacted some of our favorite **Hochzeit dances and customs**, and we've heard reps from all the local villages share the **Lenten and Easter customs** they remember from their youth.

If you want to keep the good times rolling, please renew your dues today! Fill out this form and mail it with \$60 to **Elmer Dreher, Sunflower Chapter Treasurer, 1319 MacArthur Rd., Hays, KS 67601**. Or bring your membership renewals to the Oct. 17 meeting in Antonino. Make all checks payable to Sunflower Chapter. *Danke!*



*National dues at \$50 keep you connected to the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. Local dues at \$10 keep you in the know about all Sunflower Chapter events. Dues help pay for all AHSGR publications.*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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