



Sunflower Chapter NEWSLETTER



Winter 2015

Vol. 19 Issue 1

Warum Die Glocken Laeuten

Judy Hoffman

The Sunflower Chapter Christmas program began with a play in St. Francis Church, Munjor on Sunday, Dec.14, 2015, 'Warum Die Glocken Laeuten' (Why the Bells Rang).

The tale, narrated by Norma Pipkin, tells of a time long ago in a German village. The parish church was beautiful and it's crowning glory were the bell chimes in the tower. But for years, the chimes did not ring. In fact it had been so long that people began to wonder if they ever had rung out their joyous invitation. Every year at Christmas the villagers would bring gifts, placing them on the altar, waiting and hoping the bells would ring again.

It was Christmas and a heavy snow was falling. Peter (Anthony Lang) and his little brother (Connor Werth) lived outside the village but they were determined to brave the storm and bring their gift to the altar--one small coin, precious in their eyes and a great sacrifice. A gift of love. They set out in joyful anticipation.

Meanwhile an old woman (Judy Hoffman) also was trying to reach the church, but the cold and blowing snow overcame her and she fell to the ground, weak, hungry, and too exhausted to continue on. The snow began to cover her as she lay there helpless. The brothers saw her lying in the snow and tried to revive her. Finally Peter stood up and told his little brother to go on without him; he would stay and try to help the woman. Little brother was reluctant to go without Peter, but Peter insisted, handing him the precious coin and instructing him to quietly and without notice, place their coin on the altar. Then Peter covered the woman with his coat and continued to try to wake her.



Norma Pipkin, Larry Richert, Amanda Rupp, Tom Haas, Judy Hoffman, Pat Lang, LeRoy Lang, Leon Wolf, Anthony Lang, and Connor Werth.



The program took place in the beautiful Volga-German church of St. Francis of Assisi, in Munjor, Kansas

The ceremony at the church had begun. The gospel narrative of the nativity of Our Lord was read by Larry Reichert.

Then the procession with gifts began. A businessman (Leon Wolf) placed a chest full of coins on the altar. No bells rang. Then a very rich lady placed jewels on the altar. Silence. An artist (Amanda Rupp) brought up her finest painting. Still - silence. Now a famous author (Leroy Lang) approached the altar, gently placing his latest book. The quiet was now deafening. Finally the king (Tom Haas) approached; surely his gift would release the chimes. The king removed his crown and placed it on the altar. Everyone waited, straining to

hear the bells, all to no avail.

Little brother meanwhile had quietly and unnoticed; made his way to behind the altar. As his brother Peter had instructed, he rose from his crouch, hidden behind the altar, and reached up to place their coin there. Suddenly the chimes began to ring. At last the beautiful sound of the chimes rang out throughout the church and countryside. Hearts were full of joy and wonder at "the miracle of the chimes" brought about by two little boys whose hearts were filled with a great desire to share what little they had. May we all learn from this and ponder this message in our hearts.

Then everyone returned to the Munjor Parish hall and Tom Haas led us in singing Christmas Carols in German. Soon a loud knock on the door, and the feared "Beltznickel" made a loud and boisterous entrance! It seemed the children froze in their places as this fearsome form made his way around the room, loudly announcing he was here to make

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sure everybody is behaving or he'll make them behave! Big gruff voice -heavy bearded face - fur cape, heavy chain that was banged on tables and chairs to emphasize the point he was making. He then called the children forward and gave each a candy cane - or a lump of coal.

Then another knock at the door - very gentle. The highly anticipated "Christkind" had arrived, all dressed in white, face covered by a white veil. Gently she invited the "so Schoen children" to gather round. She asked them "Whose birthday do we celebrate at Christmas?" What good things can you do for Jesus? Children answered "give presents"; "listen to mom and dad"; "be nice"; "if someone falls, help them up"; Christkind asked the children "Do you know your prayers? What do you pray?" "The rosary". They then made the sign of the cross together and prayed the "Our Father". Christkind then assured the children "Jesus is so happy when you know how to pray to Him. He's happy when you are good at home, good to your brothers and sisters." Then they all sang "Silent Night" in English, then German. Each child was given a bag of Christmas treats. Then Christkind waved goodbye and slipped away.



The December meeting brought a full house to the annual fundraising banquet and Christmas program.



The Beltznickel surprises the children as he warns them that they had better be good....



...while the Christkind questions the children on their religion and gives them a brown bag filled with oranges, peanuts, hard candy and a candy cane.

Presidents Message

Kevin Rupp

It seems like we just finished our last meeting and it is already time to get together. The Summer/Fall newsletter was not mailed out last time because of it being printed so late. Copies were brought to the meeting for members to pick up. If you were not at the meeting and want a copy please send me an email and I will get a copied mailed out to you.

I want to thank all the people who help with the Christmas program and of course our cooks who made such a wonderful meal. Our chapter did authorize the donation to AHSGR for \$1,000.00 and the check has been mailed and received. The money will be used for Russian archive research. It is through our chapter efforts that allows us to contribute to headquarters.

Our speaker for the February 8th meeting will be Guy Windholz. He will be speaking about 100+ years of history involving our pioneer's building skills with limestone. The presentation will include were the limestone came from that built our magnificent churches, bridges, and homes. I hope you will plan to attend this meeting.

The 2015 dues are now past due, so this will be your last newsletter unless you renew for 2015. Please see the renewal sheet in this newsletter.

In this issue of the newsletter you will find the first part of the History of the village of Obermunjou. The complete history will be in a upcoming AHSGR Journal.

Plans will soon be made for the next Kansas Round-Up of Chapters. The date has been set for Saturday, October 3, at the Whiskey Creek in Hays, hosted by the Topeka Chapter. Watch the newsletter for more details as they become available.

See you all on Sunday, February 8!

MEETING DATES

Be sure to keep these dates for our upcoming meetings and special events.

Chapter Meeting, **Sunday, Feb. 8th**
Munjour Parish Hall
Pot Luck - Finger Foods

Chapter Meeting, **Sunday, April 26th**
Location - Liebenthal, Kansas

AHSGR Convention, **July 12-19, 2015**
Billings, Montana

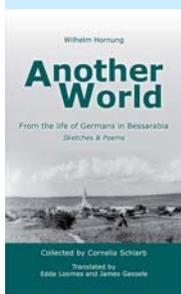
Chapter Meeting, **Sunday, August 9th**
Munjour Parish Hall

VFW Breakfast, **Sunday, September 14th**

Kansas Round-Up, **Saturday, October 3rd**
Whiskey Creek - Hays, Ks.

Chapter Meeting, **Sunday, December 13th**
Munjour Parish Hall

NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM AHSGR

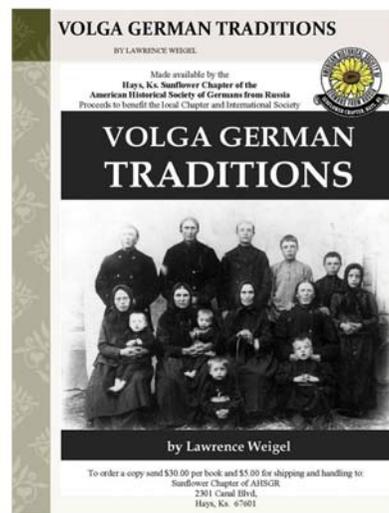


Another World, from the life of Germans in Bessarabia: Sketches and Poems by Wilhelm Homung, Collected by Cornelia Schlarb Translated by Edda Loomes and James Gessele. Paperback, 176 pages

The author, born in 1925, describes the world of his childhood with endearing narrative sketches and poems that shed light on grandparents and great-grandparents of Bessarabian German descendants worldwide. The book includes family stories, political history and other reflections on a time and place that no longer exists except in fond memory. There are also a number of photographs and maps.

Available from AHSGR
Member Price: \$25.00

Sunflower Products Available



For more information on these items contact the Sunflower Chapter at volgagerman@ruraltel.net



Next Meeting

Feb. 8

Social & Open Library.....Noon
Pot Luck Finger Foods.....12:30

Meeting/Program..... 1:30

Program Speaker: Guy Windholz
Guy will be talking about the use of limestone in Ellis County and how it was cut and made into beautiful structures.

2015 Dues - You can also pay your 2015 dues at the meeting.

What is a VILLAGE COORINDATOR

Over the next few newsletters we are going to do some features of Village Coordinators, who they are, what they do, how they can help people and what they do with their research.

Village Coordinators (VCs) for the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia coordinate, aid, and assist those individuals attempting to bring families and villages together through village research. They are doing this work on a volunteer basis and spend many hours gathering and organizing information.

Each coordinator desires to communicate with all persons who share the same village heritage. This would include sharing of family group records, maps, individual and family histories, video and audio tapes of memories, trip experiences, and other village information. Coordinators oversee the Village Night as part of the annual convention. It is always a highlight to find tables with persons sharing the same village.

Some of the villages have printed books, articles, and other publications often appearing in the Journals. Some are creating GEDCOM format databases to be of help to families. Your input is needed.

While the coordinator lists have grown greatly, there are still many villages where there is no one to assist this great work.

Role and Responsibilities of an AHSGR Village Coordinator (VC) to Researchers and to AHSGR

- ◆ Serve as focal point for research, information and knowledge about the village.
- ◆ Coordinate research for the village among interested persons.
- ◆ Respond to inquiries, for AHSGR members and non-members, from researchers interested in the village.
- ◆ Share available requested information for a family group or families from the village (fees for costs the VC incurs may be charged)
- ◆ Develop a 'succession' plan for the work that has been done and the data that has been accumulated for the village – in other words, who will receive your data when you retire the

position or die? (Your family should be aware of your plan and if no follow on VC is named, the information should be forwarded to AHSGR (at AHSGR expense) to help the next person who volunteers to take your position).

- ◆ Serve as a representative for AHSGR when contacted by a non-member. Answer their questions to the extent you can but also inform them about the Society and encourage them to consider becoming a member. For example, give them the address of the Society web site and where to find membership information from the Home page, and also the address for the on-line store.
- ◆ If you feel it is appropriate, forward the name and address of a prospective new member to the Headquarters Office Manager who can send the person a prospective member packet. The Office Manager will check the Membership database for you to see if the contact is currently a member. It is recommended you ask if the person is interested in AHSGR Membership before forwarding their name.
- ◆ Share information with AHSGR about information you have in your files and database. Because VC often expend a considerable amount of their own funds to obtain village related data, merely giving a copy to AHSGR may not be accepted as a solution. Your files should eventually end up in the AHSGR files for safe keeping or be transferred to a replacement coordinator for you once you no longer have use for them. One method to let AHSGR and persons who are interested in your village know what is in your files is to send an annotated list or bibliography, including your contact information, of information you have to AHSGR for placement in your Village File. This information is copied to the Village File Inventory that can be searched from the AHSGR web site.
- ◆ Remember you are often the first contact for the Society a non-member has. Do your best to make a good first impression.
- ◆ Share your ideas that have worked for you with the VC community. The VC MailList is a useful tool to do this and learn new methods and share successes.
- ◆ Prepare and submit a yearly report to the VC Reports Editor, Joe Getge, describing what occurred for the village or new information that has been learned or obtained. A 'call' for sumittal of the yearly report will be made by the VC Report Editor, typically in October, with a request that reports are to be submitted prior to the end of November.
- ◆ Prepare and submit your family history information, preferably in a GEDCOM file but paper records are OK.
- ◆ Remember to submit your yearly AHSGR dues if you are not a Life Member. Your membership must remain active in order to be a village coordinator for the Society.
- ◆ Try to attend the annual convention as often as possible as many of the new members are anxious to meet you. You might be surprised to find the high degree of esteem in which you are held.
- ◆ Developing and maintaining a village website is encouraged but not required. You may enlist others to develop and maintain the site if time limitations or assistance for those skills are a limitation.
- ◆ Assist in identifying and establishing a chair (or co-chair) for the Village Coordinators.

As you can see a Village Coordinator is very involved. The 2014 VC reports will soon be on line, but for now, you may view past reports by going to <http://ahsgr.org/VillagesVCReports.htm> and view the different years.

2014 Village Coordinator Report for Obermunjou, Russia

Here is an example of the AHSGR Village Reports.

Obermunjou 2014 Report Kevin Rupp VC

This year I had received about 100 requests for information dealing with my various villages, about 1/2 of these were for Obermunjou. Some were people from Germany, some from Russia, but the majority was people having questions about their families who settled in this area of Ellis County, Kansas.

I did contact Mila Koretnikov to get a list of what is available from the archives. Items included from these Russian Archives:

Engels: Church books on births: 1821-1835, 1849-1866; Marriages & Deaths: 1821-1826; Deaths 1849-1856

Saratov: Church books 1802-1921; Communion Records 1853, 1855, 1856, 1858-1861, and Census 1834

Samara: Births 1875, 1880, 1881, 1889, 1897, 1806, 1909; Marriages 1875, 1880, 1889, 1893, 1914; Deaths 1908, 1914; and Census records for the years 1850 & 1857.

Volgograd: Has no records for Obermunjou

No Family lists books are available on Obermunjou

History of Obermunjou – I was able to hire Olga Litzenbeger to write the History of Obermunjou. It is about 18 pages long and covers:

- Geographic Location
- Brief Settlement History
- Schools and Instruction
- Denominational Faith of the Community and its Main Aspects
- The Parish
- Church Construction Dates and Architectural Characteristics
- Population Numbers
- From the History of the Church Community and the Parish
- Clergy of the Katharinenstadt Parish who Served in Obermunjou
- Partial List of Clergy of the Parish of Obermunjou
- The Village Today
- Archival Sources

An Interesting Archival Document Obermunjou in the Press

I have given AHSGR to reprint this in the upcoming Journal hopefully in the Spring or Summer issue. Olga also sent me photos that I hope will be used with the article. I would like to also use this as a Chapter presentation.

Database: My database at this time contain about 102,755 names. Not all these are from Obermunjou, many are from the other villages that I work as Village Coordinator, and all these names connect to Ellis County, Kansas one way or another.

Obituary Files & Memorial Cards: I maintain at this time about three filing cabinets containing obituaries, mostly group by family names. I have many memorial cards, some going back to the original settlers that came from Russian to Ellis County, Kansas. Many of these are in the old German.

Records On Hand: Listed below are the church records and census' that I have on hand:

- Dr. Igor Pleve Books
- 1834 Census – Collected by families, not complete
- 1850 Census
- 1857 Census
- Births: 1821 – 1834 (Not Complete); 1855-1866 (Not Complete) 1871-1911 (Not Complete); 1875 Complete; 1880 Complete; 1881 Complete; 1889 Complete; 1894-1918 (Not Complete)
- Marriages: 1839 (Complete); 1840 (Complete); 1850-1858 (Complete); 1860-1864; 1874 (Not Complete); 1875 (Complete); 1876-1911 (No Complete).
- Deaths: 1850-1855 (Not Complete); 1856-1876 (Not Complete); 1892-1907 (Not Complete); 1907-1918 (Not Complete)

WEBSITE:

I maintain a website, www.volgagerman.net. Here I list all the villages that I am currently working as VC and

some extra villages that I have developed for friends who have no websites. I plan to redo the website this year.

Periodicals:

I continue to look for books that might be of some use for research on the Volga Germans. The most recent additions are: Auswanderungen aus dem Odenwaldkreis, Vol. 1, 3, 4, and 5. By Ella Gieg. This is a five volume set the covers the South of Hesse in Germany. It consists of those people who left that area to go to American and Russian. Each volume covers a certain district in that area. The web address for those who might be interested is: <http://gendi.biz/shop/index.php?language=en>

“Gedenkbuch Kasachstan”, by Michael Wanner, published in 2015. This book contains many lists of people who were deported to Kasachstan Volk Auf Dem Weg

CONVENTIONS:

I was able to attend the convention in Lincoln and lead my are Village Workshop. We have about 8 people attend. I will not be able to attend this year's convention.

GOALS FOR 2015:

- To compile a book containing the History of Obermunjou along with the census records all in one volume and donate to AHSGR.
- Revamp my webpage
- Try to acquire a many new documents from Obermunjou as possible.
- Reach out to help as many people as I can with their questions and try to promote AHSGR.

Submitted by Kevin Rupp, AHSGR VC
January 13, 2015

OBERMONJOU

(also known as Ober-monjour, Ober Monjou, Obermonj, Kivivka, Krivovsk; today: KRWIVOVSKOYE, Marxosvki Rayon, Saratov Region)

By Olga Litzenberger

2014 © Kevin Rupp



Note: The article below was commissioned by Kevin Rupp in 2014 and was written by Olga Litzenberger of Saratov, Russia. The original document was written in Russian and consisted of 18 pages including bibliography. This article below is only a portion of the translated paper. AHSGR has been given permission to reprint this in its entirety in an upcoming journal along with a number of photos that were also submitted with this history of the village.

Note: Johannes Herzog of Königswinter, Germany translated this article from the original Russian-language version into German. Alex Herzog of Boulder, Colorado subsequently translated it into American English. Johannes and Alex are second cousins and Black Sea Germans.

Geographic Location and Administrative-Territorial Affiliation in the 19th and 20th Centuries

The German colony of Obermonjou was founded on the “left side” of the Volga (which in the usage of Volga Germans was the “meadow side,” the “right side” being the “mountain side”), on the banks of a small lake close to the Volga River. It lay 328 kilometers [ca. 203 miles] from the city of Samara, 162 kilometers [about 100 miles] from the county seat Novousensk, 70 kilometers [about 43 miles] from Saratov, 60 kilometers [37 miles] from the suburb Pokrovsk and nine kilometers [ca. 5.6 miles] from the Katharinenstaft administrative office of the rural Nikolayevsk district (Volski), government of Samara. Subsequent to the establishment of the Work Group of the Workers Commune of Volga Germans [forerunner of the Soviet Republic of Volga Germans. – Tr.] Obermonjou was the administrative center for the village *soviet* [council] Obermonjou and for the entire Marxstadt Canton. In 1926 the village *soviet* Obermonjou was relegated merely to the Obermonjou village.

Brief Settlement History

The German colony of Obermonjou was founded on June 7, 1767 by the [Crown’s recruiter] Baron Kano de Boregard. The eighty-three founding families of the colony had come from various German cities and states (Saxony, Mainz, Mecklenburg, Trier, Würzburg, Bamberg, and other areas). Also listed among the original colonists are immigrants from France [likely, Alsace] and Luxemburg. Practically all initial settlers were Catholics, with only seven persons professing to be Protestants. First to be appointed mayor was Joseph Grenzer, a twenty-six-year-old soldier from Würzburg who had immigrated to Russia with his twenty-two-year-old wife.

The name of the colony came from the German word “Ober [upper] and the family name of the second director of the colony, the Crown-authorized Boregard,, Colonel Otto Friedrich von Monjou, combined as OBERMONJOU, in contrast with the “Lower Monjou,” the Lutheran colony of Niedermonjou (today: Bobrovka, Marxovski Rayon, Saratov Region).

The *ukase* [the Crown’s decree] of February 26, 1786, which regulated the naming of colonies, officially gave the colony the name OBERMONJOU.

The name Krivovka was given to the village in 1915 as a hostile anti-German propaganda campaign developed in the country, a consequence of the 1914 outbreak of World War, in which Germany was the principal enemy of Russia. A series of discriminatory laws was enacted against the German population of Russia. In 1914 all German-language publishers and associations were closed, and the public and everyday use of the German language was forbidden. The August 18, 1916 *ukase* forbade German-language instruc-

tion in all educational institutions of the Russian Empire. At the same time, when many German locales were renamed, Obermonjou was given the name Krivovka. However, subsequent of the establishment of the Working Committee of Volga Germans in 1918, German villages were allowed to use their original names.

The first ninety-five settlers included not only farmers, but also trades people such as five tailors, four hunters, four masons, three shoemakers, two carpenters, two blacksmiths, two paper manufacturer, two gardeners, two hosiers, two bread bakers, a soldier, a cooper, a maker of napkins, a plasterer, a merchant, a miller, a wood turner, a maker of perukes, a locksmith, a wool spinner, a weaver, a teacher, and a doctor. Still, most of the settlers had been farming people in their original homelands.

The colonists grew wheat, rye, millet, and vegetables. In time, a millwork evolved in the village. By the 1790s, the Guardianship Office granted the colonist Kunz permission to put up a stream-fed mill near the village of Voskressenskoye, and in 1800 he sold it to the Russian farmer Nechayev. Between 1810 and 1820 the colonist Befort also operated a mill. Business transactions with farmers were infrequent, but not uncommon. For example, in 1820 the Guardianship Office ordered a “mandatory payment to be made by the farmer Chebyshov to the colonist Heinrich Berhart of Obermonjou.”

Each year the Saratov Guardianship Office produced documentation for trade volumes and carefully followed the economic situation in the colonies. For example, during 1814 it registered an epidemic affecting cattle. That same year it collected a record “on the welfare of the colonies, in which one could read about “records of goods sold by the colonists to out-of-town merchants, namely, cattle, tobacco, grains, including wheat, to be transported to cities such as Kasan, Kostroma, Moscow, Nizhni Voggorod, Rybinsk,” and the report included data on “the resulting sums of money received, as well as the expenditures for survival in the colonies. An audit of 1934 recorded land for the colonists in the amount of 15 *desyatines* [ca. 35 acres] per person. According to the 10th audit of 1857, 921 male colonists owned 5,941 *desyatines* [ca. 14,000 acres] (some 6.5 *de-*

syatines per person) of land. Lack of sufficient arable land, forest land and hay-growing land often resulted in court cases contested between German colonists. For example, between 1911 and 1920 there was a dispute between residents of Obermonjou and the neighboring colony of Orlovskaya over lands that were designated as Kommissarskaya, Monjou and Wilhelmina. During the time span of 1836-1841 the Guardianship Office referred to the Senate a judicial dispute between residents of Obermonjou and the state's salt transporters and the Cloister of the Transfiguration of Christ of Saratov. It concerned the catch of fish in the above-named land areas. Between 1851 and 1853 the Office dealt with the matter of "mis-measured tracts of land on the Koltovski Island, which belonged to colonists..."



In addition to wheat, tobacco also became an important trade commodity. Traditions of tobacco growing and use in their old homeland, favorable policies toward the tobacco trade, which was very weak in Russia and, as of 1762, was not taxed, as well as strong demand for it, supported the spread of tobacco culture among the foreign colonists. The Office observed carefully the contracts for purchasing tobacco leaves and guaranteed the colonists of Obermonjou 2,216 pud (over 30,000 pounds) of tobacco. In the second half of the 19th Century, production of tobacco, which was very profitable, was stopped due to heavy competition and to certain aspects of the state's tax policies.

Among the crafts of the colonists of Obermonjou, a special one was weaving with straw. Straw-woven products were indispensable to everyday life of the colonists and found a broad variety of uses in the households. With time, this craft became a revenue-producing one, and by the end of the 19th Century dozens of colonists, primarily women, took part in their farmyards in the production of straw hats, small and large baskets, figures of straw and various everyday articles. Demand was rather strong, and profiteers bought the products in great quantity and resold them in the larger cities.

The population in the colonies grew steadily. While Obermonjou counted 91 families in 1816 and 138 families in 1834, by 1857 there were 197 families. According to reports of the state central statistical office, in 1859 there were one brick manufacturer and ten windmills in the village. At the same time, the office reported, Obermonjou counted 165 farm homes in 1859. In 1869 authorities from the Brunel and Hertel colonies turned to the Guardianship Office with the request to be allowed to "cut the number of farm home sites in half, because the families of some home owners were increasing rapidly." According to information issued by the statistical office of the Samara Gouvernement, in 1910 the colony had 392 farmsteads and two operating oil mills.

Not all names of the various village leaders have been preserved. But it is known that during the years 1870 – 1890, people such as Johann Befort, Jakob Walter, Josef Exner, Peter Brull and Konrad Boos held the office of mayor.

During Soviet times, Obermonjou opened a public reading room and a room intended to get rid of illiteracy. Under the headline "Stalin's Constitution Demands Creative Cultural Work," the newspaper "Nachrichten [News]," in its issue of March 15, 1937 reported as follows: "The situation regarding reading rooms in the Marxstadt Canton looks very bad. There is a great lack

of leadership on the part of the Canton organizations and the village *soviets* [councils]. The reading room in Obermonjou possesses a good library, newspapers and magazines, which, however, no one makes use of. The work of the circles is lacking entirely, and the librarian, Comrade Kremer, opens the reading room only rarely."

During the 1920s the village had two cooperative stores, an agricultural credit cooperative, two machine cooperatives, and two *artels*.

The ongoing collectivization and de-kulakization bore tragic consequences and were accompanied by a severe famine. In response to the de-kulakization campaign, during which entire families were arrested and deported to Siberia or to the Far North, mass demonstrations by German farmers defending the de-kulakized farmers, took place. The residents of Obermonjou stood in open defiance against the militia and the military responsible for carrying out the de-kulakization. The mood of the population was reflected in a top secret report on the events during the de-kulakization campaign, as follows: "In the village of Obermonjou, a mob of people, more than three hundred women and also some men, hindered the operation involving the hauling away of the kulaks. The leader of the operation, who tried to disburse the mob in a peaceful way, was beaten up and was forced to hide. Just outside the village, another, a quickly growing mass of people gathered, with cries such as the following coming from the crowd: 'We should beat them up! Or 'Refuse the hauling away of our people from our village!' and 'We won't let anyone get through here!' Only by February 17, when a unit of soldiers sixty men strong arrived, was the mass action ended. In punishment six persons participating in the action were sentenced to prison terms of varying duration." The Commission for De-kulakization was able to go through with the transport of kulaks from Obermonjou only after the military had arrived in the village.

During September of 1941 all Germans were deported from the village, and as of 1942 the village has carried the name Krivovskoye.

[For the complete article, watch for it in an upcoming AHSGR Journal.](#)

2015 ANNUAL AHSGR STORYTELLING CONTEST

Adult Division (15 years or older)
First Place Award - \$100
Second Place Award - \$75
Third Place Award - \$50
(Awards for ties will be prorated)
“Honorable Mentions” are also possible

Youth Division (14 years or younger)
First Place Award - \$50
Second Place Award - \$30
Third Place Award - \$20
(An AHSGR Youth Membership is included with each of the awards)
“Honorable Mentions” are also possible.

ENTRY FORM FOR THE 2015 AHSGR STORYTELLING CONTEST This completed form must accompany your story!

I hereby give my permission to allow the inclusion of the following personal story of mine in the Storytelling Contest of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia:

I certify that this story has not previously been published in any form, or in any publication.

I certify that I currently control all the copyrights to the story.

I hereby grant AHSGR the rights to publish my Story and Photos for AHSGR use.

My signature: _____ Date: _____

Title of my Story: _____

I am currently an AHSGR member: Yes No

I plan to be at the AHSGR Convention in Billings, Montana, in July 2015: Yes No

FULL NAME: (please PRINT clearly): _____

ADDRESS: (Street & Apt. Number): _____

CITY & STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER: _____

AGE (if 14 years old or younger): BIRTHDATE (if 14 years old or younger): _____

E-MAIL Address (please PRINT clearly): _____

Send this completed form, five printed copies of your story, a copy on a CD or Flash Drive (if possible), any pictures that enhance the story, a short biography and a picture of yourself, by email to ahsgr@ahsgr.org with “Storytelling Contest” in the subject line or by regular mail to AHSGR/Storytelling Contest, 631 D Street, Lincoln, NE 68502-1199.

DEADLINE: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 15, 2015
Entries received after that date will not be considered!



AHSGR HEADQUARTER NEWS

What's New.....

Below are just a number of goings-on at headquarters:

1. The inventory of the Art Flegel Collection should be completed in January. A separate room has been designated for this large collection.
2. Scanning of obituaries and family histories continues.
3. Volunteers hours for the month of December were 333.5. We are so lucky to have so many volunteers to help with the many aspects of the Society.
4. AHSGR is now on "Pinterest" for those who search on the net.
5. The newly updated youth-oriented publication, Jugend Zeitung, will be emailed out in March. Susan Hopp Nakaji is the editor of this publication.
6. A number of books are in the process to be reviewed either for translation, for sale, or to be placed in the AHSGR library. Watch the AHSGR Newsletter for details.
7. The 2015 Storytelling Contest is in full gear. We need your stories!
8. 2015 renewals are being processed as fast as they are coming in with 26 new members for December. Have **YOU** renewed your membership through the chapter?
9. Archives has received a number of donations to be used in conjunction with the translation/funding of the Doenhof record project.
10. Deportation lists from the Volgograd area are in the process of being translated through a number a volunteers.
11. The 2015 convention will be in Billings, Montana this year. What the AHSGR website for details.

This is just a sampling of how busy AHSGR has been during the month of December.

- ON-LINE RESEARCH LINKS -

1. The AHSGR **pre-2000 Journals** are now on line for your convenience. Just go to: <http://www.ahsgr.org/Products/Journals.htm> chose the year on the right hand side. Once you are at that page click on the highlighted links that say [VIEW JOURNAL](#).
2. The GO's (German Origins) were updated this past month on the AHSGR Website.
3. Cemetery Searches - "Find a Grave" <http://www.findagrave.com/>

NEW CENSUS LIST AVAILABLE Contact Information

The following new census records are available from Brent Mai:

1897 Kratzke with these surnames: Bender, Berschauer, Blehm, Boxberger, Deines, Dietz, Eiler, Fabrizius, Gideon, Gross, Jaeger, Jergins, Knaus, Koleber, Krammling, Krug, Leis, Lock, Mai, Maier, Michaelis, Schaefer, Schneider, Schroeder, Schwiens, Suppes, Templing.

1897 Degott with these surnames (no maiden names recorded) Barbie, Bernhard, Braun, Eberle, Eckel, Greber, Grimm, Koller, Konradi, Mehlenberg, Mossmann, Schamber, Thaut.

For more information and pricing contact Brent Mai at bmai@cu-portland.edu.

~ Erinnerung ~ In Memory

In 2014 we lost four members, Gerald Braun, Wilmer Dreiling, Rosalee Pfeifer, and Larry Werth. The Sunflower Chapter board decided in memory of our deceased members, we would participate in the AHSGR brick program, and have a brick installed in the front area around the statues in their memory.



SUNFLOWER CHAPTER LIBRARY

We have been told that the remodeling of the Munjor Parish Hall is just about completed and we will be able to move our library down to the main level, hopefully at the next meeting. We will be able then to have the library open during the meeting so that our members may be able to look through the books at ease and hopefully check books out and do some research.





11th AH\$GR Membership Campaign

July 12, 2014 - May 15, 2015

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 2015 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 member every year, we assure an AHSGR future for all generations to come

* 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Reward Winners must have recruited the following number of new members for AHSGR: AHSGR members, 3 or greater; and Chapters, 6 or greater.

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



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 **DA**ta **CO**mmunication. **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: _____

UNSERER LEUTE IM BILD - 2014 Kansas Roundup



SUNFLOWER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

2301 Canal Blvd

Hays, Ks. 67601

volgagerman@ruraltel.net

www.sunflowerchapterofahsgr.net

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