



AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter

Chronicle Unserer Leute

Volume 44, Issue 3
May-August 2023



Mark Your Calendar

June, July—Summer Break
No Meetings

August 19th—Noon - Summer Picnic
at Lela Miller's (10201 NE 269th
Street, Battleground, Washington).



Catherine II, the Great
Empress of Russia

AHSGR Oregon Chapter
P.O. Box 55218
Portland, OR 97238-5218

oregonahsgr.org

May 2023 Program:

The May program for the Oregon Chapter was held May 20th at 2:00 pm at St. Michael's Lutheran Church. The Oregon Chapter honored Bruno Reule, a long-time member whose life experiences were and are an inspiration to those who know him. Bruno and Isolde's names are now on a plaque dedicated to their contributions to Life-time Achievement on behalf of the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR.

Photos of the ceremony are shown on page 2.



'Thank You' to Laurel Smith

For April 15th's presentation on the GFO
(Genealogical Forum of Oregon),
a great Portland resource.

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May 20, 2023



Thank You!



2023 AHSGR Convention

SAVE THE DATES: Hosted by the Northern Colorado Chapter of AHSGR International, the 53rd annual AHSGR convention will be held in Greeley, Colorado August 3-5.

The theme will be **Roots of our Heritage**.



American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
Honoring our Past - Embracing the Future

Discover our history, music, dance, and contributions to northern Colorado and the world.

<https://ahsgr.org/convention> / 402/474-3363

Plans are just now starting to take shape, but you can expect an outstanding lineup of compelling speakers, both domestic and international, as well as extensive bookstore and research rooms, top-notch entertainment, and a chance to meet new friends and to reconnect with old this convention. This has all the makings of a great time.

More details are to come, so watch your email and your snail mail as they firm up. For now, make sure to get this important event on your calendar.

Greeley is located in northern Colorado and is situated 49 miles north-northeast of Denver.

AHSGR looks forward to seeing you in Greeley in 2023!



Memorial Days

By Marilyn Schleining Schultz

Each year on Memorial Day, early in the morning, my mother would make several trips into the cellar, emerging each time with her arms full of canning jars. She'd scrub glassware until it shone, then line up each container on the pantry countertop. Next, armed with a sharp knife, she advanced on the yard. Peonies, camellias, irises, lilacs, rhododendrons - no bloom escaped her eye. Then, back in the kitchen, she arranged the bouquets.

With preparations finalized, she herded my older sister Shirleen and me into the rear seat of the Buick, where she handed us jars of flowers to balance precariously on our laps. In the front passenger seat Mother shared her space with more bouquets. My dad drove ever so carefully three miles east on Fremont Street to Rose City Cemetery, trying to avoid bumps in the street that would spill water from the jars and sharp chidings from my mother.

The cemetery, founded in 1890 on N.E. 50th Avenue and Fremont Street as the Japanese Cemetery, was expanded in 1906 to include others, including the gypsies, with their iron-fenced yard and mausoleum. The attention of my family was drawn to the many gravestones that bore familiar names, marking the final resting place of relatives and German friends from "Little Russia." There were the Schleining and Arndts and Aschenbrenners and Urbachs and Spadys and Nagels and more. In later years our visits also included the graves of Grandma and Grandpa Bender.

We walked across freshly mowed lawn, but we were always respectful about not stepping on the graves. At each stop, my mother wiped the stone while my dad clipped grass around its edges. As they worked, they gave Shirleen and me a brief family history lesson. Finally, a jar of flowers would be snuggled into the grass, and we'd move on.

Not one of my relatives' graves was decorated with a small United States' flag put out by Boy Scouts the day before. Instead of falling heroically on a foreign battlefield, my family members succumbed to mundane enemies of life - childbirth, small pox, "consumption," heart failure, old age. Nevertheless, on Memorial Day, each received a few minutes of attention and remembrance - and a Mason jar filled with yard flowers.

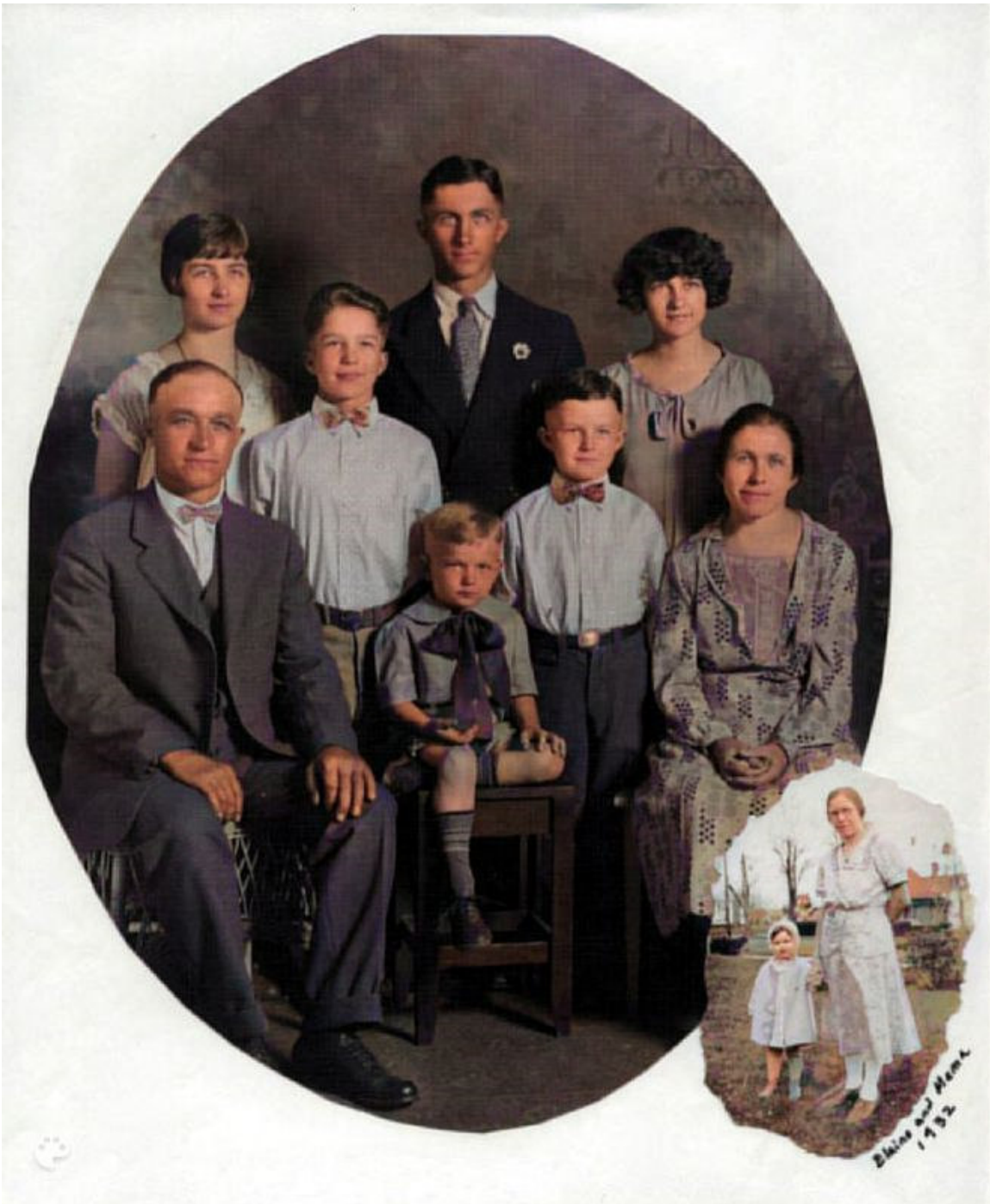
Lela Miller

It was nice seeing Lela Miller at the Chapter meeting on Saturday, May 20th at St. Michael's Lutheran church, honoring Bruno Reule. We hope her health continues to improve after her surgery. Our chapter's August get-together will be a picnic at Lela's August 19th starting at noon. Address is 10201 NE 269th Street, Battleground, Washington.

2023 AHSGR Chapter Dues

For those of you who haven't yet paid your 2023 chapter dues, please do so. Your payment of \$25.00 can be forwarded through our treasurer, Jim Holstein. Chapter dues help sustain the activities of this group and contribute to the printing and delivery of its newsletters to those members who receive their copies by mail.

For those receiving your chapter newsletter by mail, please consider having it sent electronically. It is more cost-effective for the chapter.



Grandparents, aunts and uncles, and father of Michael Frank:

Johann Conrad Frank Family

Walla Walla, Washington

Standing (L-R): Rose Frank Robinson, Albert Frank, William E. Frank, David Frank (father), Bertha Frank Pederson

Seated (L-R): J. Conrad Frank, George Frank, Mary Katherine Knaub

Frank picture taken in 1925, four years before the birth of Elaine.

Gartners German Style Meat Market

7450 NE Lombard, Portland, Oregon

The Gartner's Meats story really began when Jack Gartner, a Portlander since birth, returned to Oregon in 1948 after a four-year tour of duty with the U.S. Navy. Settling in The Dalles, he would spend the next eight years honing his skills as head meat cutter at the Easthill Food Center and the Hilltop Market. Anxious to pursue his entrepreneurial longing, Jack moved to Odell, Oregon, to open a small grocery store. But his heart was still in Portland — so in 1959 he came home to the Rose City and set up shop as Gartner's Country Meat Market.

A year later, Jack's parents, Hans and Frieda Gartner, made it a family affair, joining in to help provide Gartner's customers with the finest smoked meats. Hans, trained as a master sausage maker in Germany, brought old-country recipes and techniques we still use today. By providing quality products and friendly, down-home service, the business grew steadily, and in 1965, Jack welcomed Jerry Minor as his partner. As teenagers, both Jack's daughter, Sheri, and Jerry's son, Rick, began helping out around the business — Sheri as a "sample girl" and Rick cleaning up around the shop. Eventually, their enthusiasm and interest in keeping the tradition alive would pay off when, in 2000, "the dads" scaled back their day-to-day involvement and the torch was officially passed on to "the kids." Today, owners Sheri Gartner Puppo and Rick Minor make it their priority to keep the quality high and the environment fun — a great group of employees working together to serve customers from Portland and beyond the same way we have for more than 60 years. We honor Jack Gartner, a Portland and Vancouver area icon. He was born on June 9th, 1927 and passed on May 28th, 2009.

Your temporary newsletter editor, Michael Frank, makes it a point, whenever I am in NE Portland (convenient when I visit St. Michael's), to visit Gartners. Not only do I love the cheese weiners, Bratwurst, Chorizo's, miscellaneous lunchmeats (including olive loaf), pepperoni, cheeses, fresh and frozen hamburger in 1-pound packages, fresh-cut steaks, chops, ribs, ham, and roasts, the variety also is a hit with my daughter and family in Hood River and my two local grandsons in Vancouver. I highly recommend.

Family-run, farm-fresh, hand-cut quality

Gartners is a small meat market with a simple business plan - make people happy and they'll keep coming back. They sell happiness by the pound. People come for what's inside the case. They come back for the service behind the counter.



Jean Adele Roth

4/21/1944 – 4/2/2023

Jean Adele Roth, 78, born to Fredrick Roth and Edythe McGrath Roth of Seattle, died in Seattle April 2 following treatment for her kidney disease.

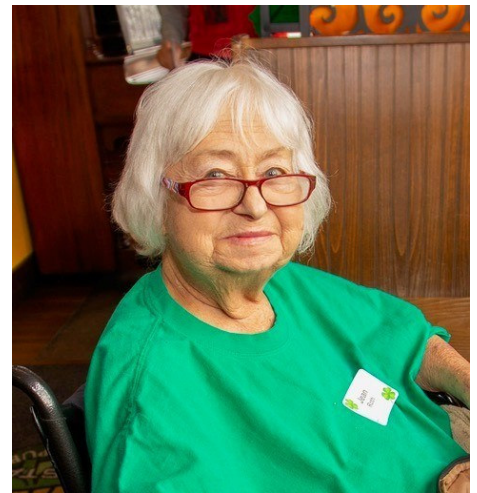
Her family moved to Kirkland in 1951 where they ran Roth's Bakery until fire took out several businesses. Thereafter they settled in the Greenwood Neighborhood of North Seattle.

Jean was a longtime Board Member of the Irish Heritage Club, the Greater Seattle Chapter of the Germans from Russia, and the Seattle Scottish Highland Games Association. She served as a genealogical advisor and resource on the Board of Seattle's Irish Heritage Club for almost 20 years and served the SGS as President and Director of Education and was an Honorary Life Member of SGS. She recently served as SGS Vice President and as Group Leader for SGS's Irish Interest Group.

A kind and sociable individual, Jean has voluntarily assisted hundreds of individuals with tracing their Irish roots. She annually organized the genealogy booth at Irish Festival Seattle and at the Highland Games in Enumclaw and Mount Vernon. Jean was highly respected for her expert genealogy knowledge, and her contributions to this area's Irish community have been invaluable. Her warm spirit and kind personality will be sorely missed by her cousins, close friends, and multiple committee level board members. She will be remembered forever in our hearts and minds.

Jean attended Woodrow Wilson Jr. High and graduated with honors from Lincoln High School in 1962. She then entered the University of Washington School of Drama to become a teacher. While at the UW, she pledged to the Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority. After three years at the UW, she traveled to Hawaii to participate in the University of Hawaii's summer plays and decided to stay resulting in a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Hawaii in 1967. When she returned to Seattle, her passion for travel and tourism led her to take the Travel School Course and was then employed by Where-To-Go/University Travel for the next 23 years until her early retirement.

Her career as a Certified Travel Consultant, provided her the opportunity to travel the world and continue her lifelong hobby of genealogy and family history which generated travels to lands of her ancestors in Germany, Russia, England, Scotland and Ireland. Jean embraced the Baha'i faith in High School and had been an enrolled member since 1965.



Catharine

**The
Great**

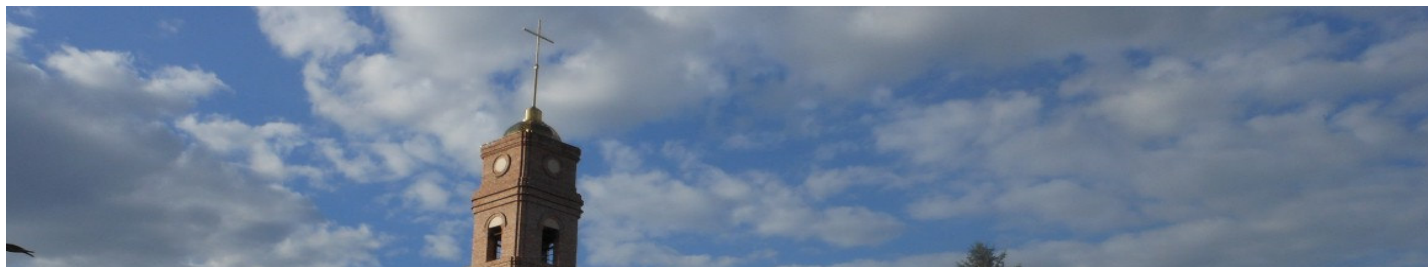
aka Jean Roth

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: The Seattle Genealogical Society; The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia; The Irish Heritage Club; Northwest Kidney Centers.

A visitation for Jean will be held Sunday, April 23, from 10 am to 5 pm at Evergreen Washelli Funeral Home, 11111 Aurora Ave N, Seattle. A graveside service will occur Monday, April 24, at 12 noon, also at Evergreen Washelli Cemetery.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.Evergreen-Washelli.com for the Roth family.

Volga German Tour to Germany in 2023



Volga German Tours is pleased to offer a tour to Germany in 2023 that will visit the ancestral homes of the Volga Germans before they left for Russia in the 1760s. This tour will begin on 28 May 2023 in Munich and end on 10 June 2023 in Munich. Airfare to and from Germany is not included in the tour.

The tour is open to the public and will be led by Drs. Brent Mai and Mila Koretnikov.

Tour to Germany 2023

The Tour (May 28 – June 10) will visit sites of significance to the history of the Volga Germans. It will begin and end at the Munich International Airport (MUC) in Germany. We will visit German villages from which the Volga Germans immigrated to Russia in the 1760s. The itinerary will be tailored to visit the villages of interest to those who are on the tour. In addition, we will visit Büdingen (epicenter of the German migration to Russia), the medieval city of Rothenburg, Hessenpark (much like Williamsburg for Germans), the port city of Lübeck from which most Volga Germans left for Russia, the Danish colonies where many had moved before they left for Russia, the emigration museum in Hamburg from which many Volga Germans sailed for North and South America, the Dachau holocaust museum, Neuschwanstein (the “Disney castle”) & Hohenschwangau, the beer gardens and cathedrals of Munich, the BMW museum, and the Olympicpark (site of the 1972 Olympics).

Since 2016, we have taken eleven groups (almost 250 people) on tours to the Volga German colonies in Russia and one group in 2022 to visit the ancestral villages of the Volga Germans in Germany. Read the [testimonials](#) from some of those participants. The 2023 tour will be the second one we have taken to Germany.

Formerly Planned Tours to Russia in 2022 & 2023

Due to current political/military turmoil in Russia and Ukraine, it is not advisable to visit the former colonies of the Volga Germans in Russia. Before the war in Ukraine broke out, we had planned to resume tours to Russia in 2022 and thought that perhaps we would be able to do so in 2023. However, it is with great sadness that we must also **cancel the 2023 tour** to the Volga German colonies. Those on the waiting list for the 2022 & 2023 tours will automatically be moved to a list of “right of first refusal” for a 2024 tour – should the situation improve to the point where we feel it is safe to make such a trip.

To be added to the waiting list for the 2024 tour to Russia (without obligation), please contact Dr. Brent Mai at brentmai@volgagermantours.com (telephone: 971.322.8124).

Questions about the tours should be directed to **Dr. Brent Mai** at:
brentmai@volgagermantours.com
971.322.8124

Walla Walla's Germantown

A settlement of Germans from Russia (Jean Roth in Photo)

From 1882-1920, many German families from the Volga region of Russia settled in the southwest part of Walla Walla, along with others from the area of the Black Sea. They had fled repressive conditions in Russia and were attracted by opportunities in Eastern Washington. The largest neighborhood was west of Third Avenue and generally south of Chestnut Street, and became known as "Russaeecke" (Russische Ecke—Russian Corner) by the approximately 300 Volga and Black Sea German families residing in Walla Walla. Garrison Creek runs through the neighborhood and was called "the Little Volga."

The Volga Germans came primarily from an area of Lutheran villages that included Frank, Walter, Kolb, Norka, Hussenbach, and Kautz, all located southwest of the governmental city of Saratov on the Volga River, and from Jagodnaja Poljana, north of Saratov.

The center of Germantown was between Third Avenue on the east, Chase Avenue on the west, Chestnut on the north, and Willard on the south. Outside of this neighborhood lived many more Germans from Russia, particularly in southwest Walla Walla homes in the area from Second all the way to the railroad tracks at Thirteenth Avenue, including Chestnut, Willow, Emma, Sprague, Military, Birch, Poplar, and Alder. These immigrants built their own homes, along with corner grocery stores and churches. Their children attended local schools, and were also required to attend Sabbath school on Saturdays in their churches.

German-Language Churches

German-language churches in Walla Walla included the Second German Congregational Church, established in 1882 and reorganized in 1896 at 7th & Willow as Zion Lutheran Congregational Church. They also included the first German Methodist church built in the Northwest, established here in 1883. In 1888 the first Lutheran services were held in Walla Walla, out of which came Emmanuel Lutheran Church, also at 7th & Willow. In 1896 a split occurred in the Emmanuel congregation and several families withdrew to form Christ Lutheran Church on Maple Street. There were said to be seven German churches in the Walla Walla area in the twentieth century. English didn't replace German in most of them until the period of World War II.

Employment

The Germans from Russia and their descendants soon became active members of the Walla Walla community. Most of them quickly learned English, especially the men who worked at jobs on the railroad, street maintenance, carpentry, shoemaking, cutting sugar beets, picking hops, and other farm work. The women maintained their own homes, while some worked as housekeepers and laundresses for the "English" ladies.

Note: I found this photo of Jean amongst my albums. She also appeared in many other AHSGR-related events. Article is reprinted from issue 2015 Nov/Dec.



Newsletter Index

Recently I've had the opportunity to index past issues of our Oregon Chapter newsletters. It is my intent to have the ability to more easily find names and articles in previous issues. Jim Holstein and I will endeavor to place the index in the newsletter section of the Oregon Chapter webpages. This index will be able to be searched online for relevant information. For those without computer access, I will copy the sorted index to paper and make it available during one or two of our chapter meetings. A sample representation is shown below.

2017 Mar/Apr	Internet Websites
2019 Jul/Sep	May Chapter Meeting: Interview Reviews
2014 Jul/Aug	Stefan Jager - The Story of a Picture (continued...)
2018 Jul/Aug	A Long Journey
2018 May/June	Tips for Genealogical Research with Dr. Fritz Juengling
2015 May/June	Spotlight - Harold and Loretta Kammerzell
2016 May/June	Shattering Brick Walls: The Harold and Loretta Kammerzell Story
2017 May/June	Spotlight: Harold and Loretta Kammerzell - Childhood Sweethearts
2017 May/June	Loretta Kniss Kammerzell (1936-2017) - Rest In Peace
2015 Jul/Aug	David Karber Presentation
2015 Sep/Oct	David Karber Presentation
2015 Sep/Oct	Dr. David J. Karber - Biography
2013 Mar/Apr	German Handwriting from Kautz
2013 Nov/Dec	Kautz, That Far Away Place
2023 Apr/June	Kautz, Russia: Frank Store and Residence on Main Street
2013 May/June	Lois Klaus
2014 Jul/Aug	Best Wishes to Lois Klaus on her 80th Birthday
2015 Mar/Apr	Spotlight - Lois Kathryn Klaus
2016 Nov/Dec	In Memoriam: Lois Klaus, Mary Jane Wagner, Darlene Vanderbeck
2020 Apr/June	Reinhold Klein (1923-2020) - Rest in Peace
2017 Sep/Oct	Diane Gabrielson Koch (1932-2017) - Rest in Peace
2022 Apr/June	In Memoriam: Norman Koch (1934-2022)
2014 Sep/Oct	Mila Koretnikov Presentation
2015 Jan/Feb	Dr. Mila Koretnikov - Business Card
2014 Nov/Dec	Jewell Dunn and Dr. Mila Koretnikov
2017 Mar/Apr	George Jerome Krieger (1931-2017)
2015 Sep/Oct	Spotlight - Irene Elisabeth Krieger Schafer
2021 Jan/Mar	In Memoriam: Lillian Schmer Lawrence - Rest in Peace
2017 Jul/Aug	Discontinuation of LDS Family History Microfilm
2021 Oct/Dec	Successful September Chapter Meeting at Lela's
2015 Jul/Aug	Vivian Schneider Leonard (1928 - 2015) - Rest in Peace
2015 Nov/Dec	LeRoy and Pictet
2023 Jan/Mar	Oregon Chapter Mobile Library
2017 Jan/Feb	Oregon Chapter Lifetime Achievement Award Winners
2014 Jan/Feb	Martin Luther - Pope Clement III
2015 Sep/Oct	Dr. Brent Mai - CVGS Update
2015 Sep/Oct	Dr. Brent Mai Visits the Land of the Volga Germans

AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Renewal Form

Membership fees are for a calendar year that **renews each January 1st**.

Annual dues for the **AHSGR Oregon Chapter** membership are \$25.

Membership Year 20____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

I want my Oregon Chapter newsletter delivered electronically. Yes _____ No _____

I want to receive my Oregon Chapter newsletter in the mail (paper copy)? Yes _____ No _____

In order for us to serve our membership more effectively, please list all of your German Russian family surnames and all of the villages that you believe your ancestors are from:

Villages	Surnames
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Annual Dues:	\$25.00
Additional Donation:	
TOTAL	
ENCLOSED:	\$

Please make all checks payable to **AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER** and send your membership dues and application to:

AHSGR Oregon Chapter
PO Box 55218
Portland, OR 97238-5218

You can also send dues & donations electronically via PayPal to our chapter email address:
oregonahsgr@gmail.com

The Oregon Chapter of AHSGR is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization organized under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). As such, your dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. (Federal Tax ID # 93-1313164).

Additional dues are required for [membership in the AHSGR International Organization](#).

(See <http://www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm> for current International membership levels and dues).

Please remit International dues directly to AHSGR headquarters at 631 D Street, Lincoln, NE. 68502-1199.

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Address

Address

City

State, Zip



The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia is an international organization dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and the dissemination of information related to the history, cultural heritage, and genealogy of Germanic settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants.

Chronicle Unserer Leute

(Chronicle of Our People)
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 Oregon Chapter of AHSGR.

Members can find the current schedule of chapter events and newsletters on our Facebook page at:
facebook.com/groups/AHSGR.Oregon/

Oregon Chapter Website
oregonahsgr.org

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