



Volume 44, Issue 4
September-December 2023



Mark Your Calendar

**October 21— Elections and
'Get To Know You'. 2pm**

**November 18—Roger Burbank—
Village of Norka— 2pm**

**December 9—Christmas potluck at
the home of Marilyn Schultz in West
Linn, 1pm**



Catherine II, the Great
Empress of Russia

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AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter

Chronicle Unserer Leute

August 2023 Picnic:

This year's chapter picnic for the Oregon Chapter was held August 19th at Lela Miller's retreat near Battleground, Washington. A good time was had by all in attendance. Food was excellent and included sweet homemade Grebbble.

Thank you, Lela, for providing this wonderful venue for use by the club. The weather cooperated nicely. A chapter board meeting was held afterwards.



September 23 Zoom Meeting

There was a fine Zoom presentation by Ellen Laubhan at St. Michael's. She is the author of "The Empress' Gift" a novel and fictional story of people making the decision to leave Germany and go to settle in Russia.



October 21st 2pm Oregon Chapter Board Elections and **Get to Know You** October 21st will be time to elect board members for the next 2 year term. Please join us in person to vote in the board members. If you or a Chapter member you know is interested in helping to guide the Chapter into the future and assist in developing chapter programs, please contact us!

oregonahsgr@gmail.com. In conjunction with the elections, we want to re-introduce ourselves by sharing our German-Russian heritage/ancestry with those in attendance. We also want ALL chapter members to introduce yourselves! At the program, we'd like everyone to share their German-Russian connection. Feel free to bring whatever visual aids you want (pictures, family trees, slideshow, etc).

November 18 2pm The November 18 2pm meeting will be given by Roger Burbank. He will talk about being the AHSGR Village Coordinator for Norka and about the resources he has, etc.

December 9 1pm Marilyn Schultz will host a Christmas potluck at her house in West Linn, Oregon for all chapter members. More information will be distributed closer to December.

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Fall 2023

Carole Nees Hayden

I have been fortunate enough to be able to attend the annual National AHSGR Convention several times. They are fun and interesting events, and I always learn something new about our history, culture or genealogy, as well as make connections with other Germans from Russia. This summer the convention was held in Greeley, Colorado. Once again it was a great event, and it even had a larger turnout than in the past few years, which was great to see!



I didn't think about it before I got to Colorado, but once I was there I got to thinking that I thought I had someone in my family tree that had lived in Greeley. I thought about it for a while and looked at my online records and realized that it had been the family of my great-grandmother's sister, my grandmother's aunt. From that realization it was easy to find out where she was buried, and I was able to visit her grave in the Linn Grove Cemetery. As a long-time genealogist and family historian there are few things I like better than tramping through cemeteries! Their graves were easy to find at a very well-cared for cemetery less than 10 minutes from our hotel. While this was not an official part of the convention it certainly was one of the highlights of the weekend for me.

It made me think that it has been a number of years since I have visited the graves of my grandmother and her parents whose graves are all at the Rose City Cemetery in Portland along with many other Volga Germans. I think I will be going there soon to visit their graves as well.

I am looking forward to attending more conventions in the future. Who knows what unexpected things I might discover!

Fondly, Carole



Heidelberg, Germany (facing west)



Schriesheim Germany

Schriesheim, Germany is located approximately 7km north of Heidelberg, across the Neckar river. In 1767, Johann Philipp Frank (b. 1719 Schriesheim) and his family arrived in Kautz, Russia. His wife and one child perished during the journey from Schriesheim. The Frank line there starts at 1484.

Carole's Baked Beans (Carole Nees Hayden)

1 lb. hamburger
1 onion
2 stalks celery
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. chili powder
1 tsp. salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. oregano
 $\frac{3}{4}$ C. barbecue sauce
2 T. brown sugar
2 16 oz. cans baked beans (or 1 can baked beans & 1 can pork 'n beans)
1 C. shredded cheddar cheese

Brown hamburger with celery and onion in a large skillet. Add remaining ingredients and place in a two-quart casserole dish. (Or use a cast iron skillet and use that to bake in.) Bake uncovered for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Different brands and flavors of BBQ and baked beans used will vary the flavor.

Lela's Cottage Cheese Cool Salad (Lela Miller)

1 Carton Cottage Cheese
1 Package Jello (any Flavor)
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Can Crushed Pineapple—Drained
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup Mini-Marshmallows
1 Carton Cool Whip

Put cottage cheese in a bowl, add and mix well the dry Jello.
Stir in Pineapple and mini-marshmallows. Mix well.
Fold in 1 carton of Cool Whip.
Decorate top and serve.

Lela's Creamed Cucumber Salad (Lela Miller)

3 medium Cucumbers, peeled and sliced
1 medium white onion, sliced

Combine:

$\frac{1}{2}$ Cup sour cream
1 T. sugar
1 T. white vinegar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Pepper
1 T. Chopped fresh parsley

Pour over sliced cucumbers and Onions.

Cover and chill, stirring occasionally

Sprinkle with chopped parsley. Serve. Enjoy

From Your Newsletter Editor:

As most of you are probably aware, in addition to currently producing a newsletter every several months, I also am an AHSGR Village Coordinator for the Lutheran villages of Kautz (Russian name Werschinka) and Merkel (Makarovka). As the crow flies, the two villages, west of the Volga are eight miles apart. I chose to become VC for Kautz because my paternal grandparents were born there and their Volga ancestry started with my 5th great-grandfather, Johann Philipp Frank, born 5 November 1719 in Schriesheim, Germany. He was the original Frank settler in Kautz in 1767. My earliest documented Frank ancestor in Schriesheim, Germany was Endres Frank, born 1484. He would be my 14th great-grandfather.



The village of Kautz was named after Georg Jacob Kauz, a 1767 founding settler and its first mayor. Before 1788 he had moved to the village of Merkel with his entire family. For this reason I took on the job of Merkel VC.

The distance between the remains of Kautz and the nearby village of Dietel (Oleschna) is two miles. They are easily in sight of each other, and for that reason, there was a lot of activity between the two. From Kautz to Tanja Schell's Catholic village of Sewald is three miles. Four miles to Catholic Rothammel. There was very little mingling between the inhabitants of Lutheran and Catholic villages. According to my spreadsheet there were 24 villages within a 20 mile radius of Kautz.

My aunt and the previous Kautz VC, **Elaine Frank Davison**, first showed an interest in Kautz genealogy beginning in the 1950's. She was able to get village information from her father, Johann Conrad Frank and her uncle Wilhelm Frank, both local Walla Walla residents, and Montana cousins and other relatives across many western states. She would go to churches to Xerox birth, marriage, and death records (back before there was a stigma against it). She visited known relatives and stayed long enough to tape their memories and develop lifelong friendships in the process. She and I worked on Kautz genealogy from 1985 until her death in 2001. She produced 10 volumes of **Unsere Leute von Kautz** on paper. After her passing, I scanned those volumes, electronically converted all and added my own, now 320 pages including excerpts from my trip to Russia in 2016.

We first developed Kautz genealogy with the help of Apple IIe computers, using Appleworks, and many generations of successive IBM-compatible computers. The Kautz/Merkel database now contains the records of 37,467 individuals. Elaine purchased ancestral charts for each of the founding Kautz families from Dr. Igor Pleve. After building a primitive genealogical database from his information, she was able to acquire Lutheran church records for the village. We now have all Kautz church records from 1834-1918 with the exception of 50 years of births (1850-1899). The hunt is on to find those records.

These Lutheran records were translated and moved to a spreadsheet where family groups could be extracted. Within each genealogical record from church records, there is ample detail about the source of information. So a birth in say 1840, record 57, can point a researcher to the original handwritten record. In addition to Ancestral charts, I can generate Outline Descendant charts, and detailed Genealogy reports. The detailed genealogy report for Endres Frank (my earliest Frank from Germany, born 1484) consists of 1,032 pages of information. Upon request by a person needing family information, it's possible to generate reports and charts in PDF format and transmit via email in less than an hour. Electronically, I can do it for zero cost to the requestor.

The need for relevant newsworthy Volga-German information is always gratefully welcomed. Please consider contributing articles, memories, photos, etc. so that future newsletters can be the best they can be. The positions of Newsletter Editor or AHSGR Village Coordinator can be very rewarding. If you have a yearning for excitement and fulfillment, then being either a chapter Newsletter Editor or Village Coordinator is for you. Please think about donating your time to these worthy pursuits.

The production of this newsletter has given me an opportunity to break into the world of artificial intelligence. Though I am nothing but dust under the fingernails of AI novices, I was able to generate art from text (like on pages 2 and 4) using **IDEOGRAM.AI**. The use of **ChatGPT** may have influenced and improved a couple of paragraphs in this newsletter.



Out of the blue, on September 15, after I wished a great niece a Happy Birthday, I was rewarded with a 1978 photo I had never seen before. It's me actually doing work (contrary to public opinion). My 53 year old daughter would have been 7 years old when this photo was taken.

There are so many instances in this world that demonstrate the fact that an almost endless quantity of unpublished historical information is out there, currently unrecognized, except for the proactive efforts of common people to bring it to light. Kudos to those current and future efforts.

Strive to make a difference. Seek out that which is not now known. Bring it to the light, thus enriching current and future generations.

Fugitives from Fear

Barbara Christy Wagner

Civil war disruptions of economic life food requisitioning by the Bolshevik regime and a severe drought in the spring of 1921 brought famine conditions to the Volga region, which led thousands of German colonists to flee westward hoping to reach Germany and eventually America. This is the story of one such group. The majority of these were from Frank Kutter, a small German village "a day's distance by horse" southwest of Saratov; a few families were from Frank and from Walter.

By The fall of 1921, many people of Frank Kutter felt that they could not survive the hardships any longer. They decided to leave the village which had been so dear to them for so long. A man named Alex Müller told his fellow villagers that, although the winter was approaching, it would be unwise to postpone their decision to leave. He insisted that by spring it might be impossible to leave at all. He assured them the trip would not be difficult, and that they should be in America within two weeks. Müller had many connections and knew how to work with Russian government officials. He proceeded to help make arrangements for the trip.

Alex Müller was formerly known as Alexander Ivanovich Bier and had originally come from Warenburg on the Wiesenseite (east side) of the Volga. He was well educated and had served as a government official under the Tsar.* After the Bolsheviks took over, he was imprisoned, brought to trial and sentenced to be shot. His guard in jail was also a German and helped him to escape. Bier walked for several miles in the Volga River so that dogs could not follow his scent. He finally settled down in a town several miles north of Balanda. Later when officials started to ask questions about him there, he escaped and came to Frank Kutter, where he used the name Müller.

There were about 105 people who wanted to leave. Fred Zeiler, the Schäfers and the Guenthers were from Frank; Maria Shossler and the Alles and Gies families were from Walter. Everyone else was from Frank Kutter.

The people held an auction sale to liquidate their assets. They could take only what they could carry, they had to sell nearly everything. They had no choice but to accept the best price they were offered. Things which were unsold had to be left behind, usually given to relatives who decided to stay in Russia. There was little interest on the part of the Russians in their preparations to leave, and no moves were made by the government to prevent them from going.

Alex Müller "made the papers" for the people who were leaving. Draft age for the Czar's army had been 20, but draft age for the communist army was 19. To avoid trouble with the authorities Müller made certain that no one had papers showing him draft age. He changed their ages to make the young looking ones younger and the old looking ones older.

Among the people leaving were the Siegwart and Wagner families. Magdalena Sigwart was the widow of David Sigwart, who had managed the flower mill in Frank Kutter till his death in 1918. There were three Sigwart children: Hanna, David and Leah. The Wagner family consisted of Conrad and Anne Marie (Magdalena's sister) and their four boys, Conrad (Cooney), Adolf, Fred and Dave; Conrad's parents, Henry and MariKatherine Wagner; and Conrad's second cousin and wife Henry and Jette Wagner.

Magdalena Sigwart had a bundle containing cotton summer quilts, winter quilts with camel or sheep wool filling, flannel sheet blankets, pillows and a feather bed. Each family took along large quantities of bread, smoked summer sausage and sweet-wood tea which was the only food they would eat for weeks, and, as they would later discover would be gone before they reached Poland. Besides their own individual eating utensils, they took a pot, tea kettle and frying pan to do the cooking. As for clothing, they could take only the bare necessities; most of them had only the clothes on their backs.

The Wagner family had millions of rubles of paper money in a gunny sack. Inflation was rampant. The Swigarts had some gold coins, which they attached two deep all around a belt and slipped through a tunnel in the waist of Anna's union suit. Many of the women sewed their family gold coins into the layers of petticoats that they wore.

* Alexander Beer was a first cousin of Rev. J. C. Schwabenland, father of Emma Schwabenland Haynes.

On or about 5 December 1921, the group left Frank Kutter for Saratov by sled. All were driven by relatives who chose to remain in Russia. Some of the sleds were open, others were closed, but the drivers always sat outside. Some of the sleds were pulled by horses, others by camels. Camels had been brought to that area earlier and were quite common. Each sled contained blankets to keep the occupants warm. The trip to Saratov took nearly 24 hours. They left midday and stayed overnight in the small town. They broke up into small groups and stayed at several homes where they paid the people for the food and lodging. They arrived in Saratov the following day.

It was necessary to stay in the city for several days, while Alex Mueller's two brothers, who lived there, helped him to make the travel arrangements. While still in Saratov, one of the Bernhardt children was running around in the house where they were staying, when he slipped and fell breaking his leg, which forced the family to return to Frank Kutter. Alex Müller had a sick child and was not able to go with the group when they left Saratov. He planned to come later.

The people traveled by train in empty box cars. There were no seats or beds to sit on; it was necessary to sit or lie on the bundles they carried. There was no stove or other source of heat, even though the temperatures were well below freezing. There were no windows in the box cars and so it was always dark, even during the day. The clatter of the train and the smoke gave everyone headaches. There were no toilet facilities or water to wash with.

There were many delays on the trip. Often the boxcars were removed from the main track and put on a siding for a day or more; then they would travel a way farther and stop again. Sometimes when they were stopped, the boys were sent out to scavenge whatever scrap wood they could find, with which a small fire was built on a square metal plate in the boxcar. Water for tea was obtained by gathering snow and melting it over the fire.

Not everyone was in the same boxcar. The women, girls and small children stayed together and the men and older boys were by themselves. Only a few people could understand the Russian language. No one knew Polish. Most of the time no one had any idea where they were or what would happen next. What few decisions could be made were made by the men. The women were neither consulted nor informed.

When the group arrived in Smolensk, it was necessary to stay there about a week before another train was available. Arrangements were made to stay in an abandoned house which consisted of one large room. People went to the market and bought apples, potatoes and sausages. They cooked the potatoes in their skins and dipped them in the pan drippings from the fried sausages. This was the first hot food they had eaten since leaving Saratov two or three weeks earlier.

Everyone was beginning to show the effects of cold and hunger. Three-year-old Leah Sigwart died of diphtheria in Smolensk, the first death of at least 27 before the group reached Frankfurt on the Oder. Someone in town built a small casket, and they received permission to bury Leah in a mass grave in town. They dug a niche in the wall of the grave for the small casket and John Miller who had been schoolmaster and preacher in Frank Kutter, led a service for her. Henry Hoffman and the Hoffman baby also died in Smolensk. Most of the others who died later had no services, and their bodies had to be abandoned wherever they died. Sometimes it was even necessary to drop the dead from a moving train.

The group continued the trip to Minsk by boxcar, arriving there about 1 January 1922. The train was parked at the edge of town and they stayed in the boxcars a few days until the cars were needed elsewhere. Then they went into town and made arrangements to stay in an apartment building. In the middle of the night, a number of men were taken away for questioning. Apparently they were able to satisfy the authorities, because they were released the following morning.

At Minsk the people who had been together up to this point broke up into various groups. Some were detained here by illness or death. Others joined groups from other villages and went on with them. The Stroh brothers decided to return to Frank Kutter. John Miller was sick and his family stayed in Minsk with him. His wife Odelia, had a baby there, but both she and the baby died.

While John Miller was still in Minsk, Alex Müller and his family arrived and joined him. The two searched all over Minsk for other Germans who were also trying to leave Russia. Unlike many people who were leaving the country illegally, these wanted to have legal papers. Alex and John made a list of these people and travelled to Moscow, about 500 miles east of Minsk, where they told the Communist authorities that these were displaced persons driven from their homes in Germany during the war and obtained approval to take them out of the country from Minsk. There was a whole train-load of these people. Only moments after crossing the border into Poland their train was stopped, but by then they were safe from the Russians.

The remainder of this account is about the group made up of the Wagner, Sigwart and Krenning families, who were to be joined later by the Guenthers and by a man named Schwebel.

It was only about 18 miles from Minsk to the Polish border. The three families paid two drivers 18 million rubles to take them to the border in their sleds. Henry and Jette's share was 3 million rubles and they sold their felt boots to get the money. Jette had spare leather shoes and Henry had leather boots. In spite of their constant fear, they were still able to joke that the person who bought their felt boots also bought the lice!

When they left Minsk, the moon was shining brightly. The old people and small children rode in the sleds with a few of the bundles. Everyone else walked and carried whatever they could. About half way to the border, they were passed by a man riding a grey horse. He looked back over his shoulder in an ominous way, and they sensed that it meant trouble. About a mile farther on, the group came to a small Russian town. There was a long row of houses with a church at the end of it. As they approached the church, a police officer came out of a building and asked where they were going. They were certain that this was the man who had passed them earlier. After asking them a few questions and making threatening gestures with his gun, he arrested them. It was obvious that he had guessed that they were trying to leave the country.

The adults were put into a shack used by summer field workers. While the flimsy construction may have been adequate for use in the summer, the place had no heat and even with 14 people in it was at a sub-freezing temperature. The officer took the children to his house for the night, where his wife fed them and kept them warm.

In front of the officer, the sled drivers promised to return to Minsk with them and refund their nine million rubles. Although the amount mentioned was only half the actual amount involved, the officer seemed surprised that they had charged so much.

While they were detained by the police, the group became acquainted with a farmer from Husenbach who lived on the other side of the gulch. The man had a large family and they too had been arrested while trying to leave the country. They had decided to stay in Russia and he took the job of feeding the cattle of the chief of police. It was decided that the group would stay with this Volga German family while Conrad Wagner and Konrad Krenning went back to Minsk with the drivers to get their money back. While in Minsk, they met Jacob Guenther and his family and brought them back with them. A German named Schwebel who was serving in the Russian army and was stationed in that town, heard the group talking and decided to leave Russia with them. He needed to be very cautious about his plans, because in his case it meant desertion from the army.

After the group had stayed with the Husenbach family for a time, a man who lived in a village near the border was visiting in the area. He was hired to take them to his village in his sled. From there they hoped to escape across the border. The last few nights in Russia, the group stayed in an empty schoolhouse. Their food had run out by that time and so Coonie Wagner and Fred Guenther went begging door to door for food.

At first it was thought that civilians would help them to cross the border, but then the time came to go, it was two uniformed men who escorted them. They said they would take them as far as the border, but not across it. It was obvious that the police had been bribed with gold and silver in order to get their cooperation in the escape. There was about a foot of snow on the ground, and after it got dark the guides took them to a place where they thought it would be safe to cross the border. They pointed out the light of a farmhouse in the distance and told them to go there. The escapees walked in knee-deep snow single file toward the light. When they finally reached the farmhouse, they learned with disbelief that they were safe in Poland at last. Polish border guards came to the house later and seemed surprised that the group had not been stopped by the Russian border patrol.

The Volga German refugees were given food and lodging at the farmhouse that night. A foot of straw was spread on the living room floor for them to sleep on. It was the first night that they slept well since leaving Frank Kutter many weeks earlier. The next day they all went into town and were able to get space on a boxcar going to Baranowicze.

When the train arrived in Baranowicze, it was met by Polish officials who had the difficult task of determining what to do with the people who were fleeing Russia by the thousands. Like the group from Frank Kutter, nearly all were sick or dying from cold, starvation and disease.

The dead were removed from the boxcars and taken away on wagons. Everyone was inspected for disease and lice. Clothes were fumigated and everyone had to take a shower, which was a novel experience, since in Russia people bathed in a wash-tub. Large numbers were dunked in tanks of antiseptic solution. Unfortunately, arriving in Poland was not the end of their problems. Poland had suffered severely from the effects of war and did not have the resources to handle thousands upon thousands of sick and dying refugees. Relief was starting to come in from American agencies, but it was never adequate for the enormous job to be done. Frau Werner of the Red Cross in Warsaw worked hard to help families through the terrible ordeal. Many claim they owe their survival to the Red Cross.

In the weeks and months ahead, the refugees lived under the most deplorable conditions in unheated buildings formerly used as prisons or army barracks. It was not unusual to have frozen moisture condensation on the inside of the "hospitals". People slept like sardines wedged together on three tiered wooden decks. There were no mattresses and they had only their own blankets to cover them. They were really no better off than when they had lived in the boxcars. Cigarette smoke in the cramped quarters made the air unbreathable. A common complaint was that most people often went for days without anything to eat. Giant rats often stole what little food was available and sometimes attacked the people.

Baranowicze served as a clearinghouse for all of the refugees. There were three hospitals there plus other hospitals in Warsaw and Poznan. Sick people were sent to one of these cities. Those who were not sick were usually sent to Poznan. There were often 300 people or more in these transports. At this point families became separated, and many people never saw their loved ones again. Often they never found out what had become of their lost relatives.

Those who were "well" lived in constant fear of getting sick and being taken away from their family when someone did get sick their people hid them under the covers during the inspection so that they would not be discovered. This was not difficult to do since it was very cold and everyone shivered under the covers all day, leaving their beds only to go to the outhouse. Because people were wedged in so tightly, there was no way for the inspectors to tell who might be missing but there were always people who informed on others and then the sick person would be taken away, possibly never to be seen again.

Of the Wagner and Sigwart families, only six persons were well: Grandma, Cooney and Jet Wagner and Magdalena, Anna and Dave Sigwart. They were housed in a brick building in Baranowicze for a few days before being moved to Poznan. The Army barracks in Poznan were unfit to live in. The roof leaked badly, and the dirt floor became a sea of mud whenever it rained. There was no heat at all. Jette miscarried her baby. Grandma Wagner became sick and was taken away, never to be seen again.

Back in Baranowicze, Conrad Wagner waited for his family to get out of the hospital. Dave and grandpa were put feet to feet in the same bed. One day, Dave could feel grandpa's cold body and knew that he was dead. After he told the nurse that grandpa was "Kaputt", the body was taken away and never seen again. The ground was frozen too hard to bury the bodies, and from the window, Dave could see them stacked up behind the hospital like cordwood.

Finally the Wagners were well enough to leave the hospital and took a train to Warsaw where they planned to connect with a transport train going to Poznan. In Warsaw, however, both Conrad and Dave became ill and were hospitalized. Kasper Knopf was also in the hospital there with Conrad. Dave was still in the hospital after Conrad got out. He was seriously ill and eventually became delirious. Finally, he was ducked in a tank of disinfectant which apparently broke the fever, and after that he became coherent and started to recover.

Meanwhile in Poznan, Cooney and the three Sigwarts were making plans to go on to Germany. This was the middle of March 1922. Cooney was terrified that he would never see his family again and was worried about what might have happened to them. He and the Sigwarts were carrying their belongings across an open field from their barracks to a large block type building where everyone was to assemble before boarding the train to Germany. Just then a train pulled up and Cooney saw his family get off! What an emotional reunion! Immediately they made arrangements to travel together so that they would not be separated again.

It was early in the morning when the two families left Poznan. This was the first time they travelled on a passenger train. A Lutheran Sister from Bielefeld traveled with them. It was necessary to wait for several hours at the German border while she made arrangements for the trainload of people to travel on to Frankfurt on the Oder. While waiting, they saw many people who had travelled various parts of the journey with them, but had become separated along the way. Has the train crossed over into Germany, the sun was shining brightly, a symbol of the prospects that lay ahead of them.

When they arrived in Frankfurt, it was night and every single light was turned on. Again, they were inspected, fumigated and had to take showers. They were given clothes in food furnished by the Red Cross. Although they didn't get their old clothes back, that wasn't much loss for after four months of constant wearing there wasn't much left.

It was necessary to live in barracks used by Russian prisoners during the war, but the buildings were clean and had wood floors. Each family curtained off their beds from the other families for privacy. Train-loads of new immigrants arrived daily and joined loved ones who had become separated. Anna Sigwart started confirmation classes. Anne Marie Wagner gave birth to John. David Willman and Henrietta Fahrenbruch were married. Children started school. People were given jobs until overseas sponsors could be found and travel arrangements made. Everyone could finally make plans for the future, for at last they truly knew that there would be a tomorrow.



A group of the "fugitives" in Frankfurt on the Oder in the summer of 1923. Seated left to right: Anne Margaret Klein holding Ernie, Henrietta Willman holding Clara, Jette Wagner holding John, Mary Barbara Rothe holding Alex, and George Klein. Standing, left to right: Fred Rothe, Fred Klein, David Willman, Henry Wagner, Conrad Rothe, and Lydia Rothe.

People on the journey from Frank Kutter to Frankfurt on the Oder:

from Frank: Jacob and Marie (Zeiler) Guenther and infant Jacob *; Anna Elizabeth (Bernhardt) Guenther, Jacob's mother; Fred Schafer*;

George and Alice Schafer; Jacob and Marikathrine (Ditter) Schafer and children Lydia, Carl, Dave, Solomon* and Linda*; Fred Zeiler;

from Walter: Henry and Lena Reisinger Alles; John and Katherine Elizabeth Gies and children John, Alexander*, Elizabeth*, and Wilhelm*;

Maria Schossler;

from Frank Kutter: Conrad Bernhardt and wife, several children**; George Bernhardt*; Fred Diener (formerly of Husenbach); Alexander and Alice (Schauerman) Fahrenbruch and his sister Henrietta; Henry and Anlis (Schafer) Hirsch; Carl* and George Hoffman, brothers; Henry* and Jetta Hoffman and infant*; Fred and Anne-Margrethe (Hoffman) Klein and children Fred* and Katherine*; George Klein; Henry and Marie (Hoff) Klein and Reinhold*; Kasper and Katherine (Schneider) Knopf and Molly, Carl, David, Fred* and John*, Conrad and Anna Margaret (Bernhardt) Krenning and Marie, John*, George* and Carl*; Conrad and Anne Margaret (Schauerman) Lebsack and Lydia and Linda*; George, Carl and Dave Lebsack, brothers; John and Odelia* (Flauming) Miller and George, John, Anna and infant *; Conrad and Mary Barbara (Willman) Rothe and Alex* and infant *; Fred and Lydia Rothe, brother and sister; Jacob Schmidt; Magdalena (Hock) Sigwart, Anna, Dave, and Leah *; Adolf and Henry Stroh, Brothers* * *; Conrad and Anne Marie (Hock) Wagner, Cooney, Adolf, Fred and Dave; Henry* and Mari-Katherine* (Wacker) Wagner; Henry and Jette (Rothe) Wagner and infant*; David Willman.

* died on the journey

* * left the group in Saratov to return to Frank Kutter

* * * left the group in Minsk to return to Frank Kutter

Editor's Note: Judging from this story, most of the group that left Frank Kutter early in December 1921 arrived in Frankfurt on the Oder in the spring of 1922. Some, however, did not arrive till later. The Henry Hirsch and John Miller Müller families for example appear in the list (Nos. 162-167) of the Volga Germans who arrived in Frankfurt on 9 December 1922, published in this issue of the Journal. Alexander Bier (the Alexander Müller of the story and his family not listed by Mrs. Wagner, also arrived on 9 December 1922.

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

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AHSGR Oregon Chapter

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Portland, OR 97238-5218

You can also send dues & donations electronically via PayPal to our chapter email address:

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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).

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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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Members can find the current schedule of chapter events and newsletters on our Facebook page at:
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