

# Chronicle Unserer Leute

Oregon Chapter of the American Historical  
Society of Germans from Russia

Volume 46, Issue 4  
Oct. – Dec. 2022

## In This Issue



**Catherine II,  
the Great**

<b>President's Message.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>From the Editor.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Roz Rockweit's Review.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Update on Concordia Collection .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Upcoming Events .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Recipe: German Beer-Cheese Bread.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Summer Picnic Recap.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Membership Renewal.....</b>	<b>9</b>

# President's Message

Hello Everyone,

Because of a recent death in our family and the accompanying trauma, I had decided that I couldn't write a president's message for this issue of our newsletter. But now that a few weeks have passed I have changed my mind and would like to share with you a few of my thoughts.

In August, very unexpectedly, my 49-year-old son suffered a severe stroke. He lingered for about three weeks before he passed away. Children are not supposed to die before their parents. And while he was a grown man and not a young child, which would have been even more tragic, he was still my boy, and I am his mother, and this should not have happened. Making it all the worse was the three weeks in the hospital where he was not getting any better.

I have spent my whole life researching our family history. It would be hard to find a family group in the generations previous to my grandparents' generation where parents did not lose a child, and in many cases they lost more than one. I would guess that your family tree is much the same. During this difficult time of mine I was able to draw strength from all my great-grandmothers, and great-great-grandmothers who also suffered the loss of their precious children. Many years ago I heard someone say that back in the "old days" parents expected to lose a child or two, so it didn't hurt so much. I don't believe that for a minute. I think they just suffered more grief. The love a mother has for her child is a great and powerful thing. I have a little diary kept by a great-great-grandmother on the non-Volga German side of my family. In 1903 right here in Portland, her 19-year-old daughter was dying of tuberculosis, a very common cause of death at the time. In the diary she wrote "Oh, the anguish of a mother to see her child suffer so." That sentence has affected me since the first time I read it decades ago, but I never thought it would hit so close to home. We have shared an experience I never wanted to share, but it has been good to feel her strength as well as the strength of all my great-grandmothers who also have lost children. I am grateful for that.

So, my message to you with this issue of our newsletter is to hug your loved ones. Tell them that you love them. Resolve any issues that need resolving. Life can change in the blink of an eye.

Fondly,  
Carole



# From the Editor

Ah, fall — back to school, back to cooler evenings and shorter days. Back to buttoning things up in preparation for the hunkering-down. Back to walking into spider webs and scrambling to gather the last of the harvest.

This year, though, things feel a bit different. October is gliding in like a golden snake rather than stomping us with its usual cold, damp plod. The leaves may be changing but the days still feel warm and lazy like summer. I want to bake things filled with pumpkin and apples and spice, but I want to eat them on the patio instead of the kitchen table. I'm grateful for this gentle transition.

This summer I started a new job at Oregon Public Broadcasting as the newsletter writer for their award-winning video series, *Superabundant*. I'd consulted on the first season, and after it won four Telly Awards and a Northwest Emmy, the series was fully funded for another season and they were able to bring me on as a paid writer. I'm not really doing it for the money, though; I'm doing it because the entire impetus of



the series is that Oregon is a spectacular place to gather, grow, cook, and eat. I want to do my best to ensure that we never take any of this for granted.

In my growing adoration of the state my family has called home for four generations, I've developed a keen drive to be a booster for its ingredients and to tell these foods' stories. Food is my favorite way to understand history, explore other cultures, and connect with people from far outside my bubble, but the deeper I dig the more I understand that all people essentially want the same thing: to break bread with people they love. You can try baking my eminently shareable cheese-beer



*A prolific pumpkin field, Grants Pass (Portland Public Schools, ca 1930s)*

bread; find the recipe at the end.

As we slide into this cozy season of feasts, I hope we all find time to reflect on the bounty this place has given us, and that we can see the abundance in our lives. Let us all refuse to stop seeing the beauty in the world.

Warmly,

Heather

p.s. You might notice that the newsletter will be a bit light as I get used to my new workload. I'm happy to publish your articles and essays — send them my way!

## Roz Rockweit's Review of the 2022 AHSGR Convention

The convention was held in the lovely town of Lincoln, Nebraska, home to the national headquarters. Attending the 52nd International Convention of the AHSGR was like going on a treasure hunt. Exploring ship manifestos, village censuses, family trees, and stories in the research room; heads huddled together analyzing and problem solving how distant family members might be connected to the present; chatting with other attendees, learning their stories, and jotting down recommended research tips and tricks. Attending presentations covering recent personal journeys to Russia, the history of Germans into and out of Russia, detailed research resulting in a historical novel, a grandmother's oral history that transforms into a graphic novel, and so much more provided the attendee jewels of knowledge and gold nuggets of information that fit into and shapes their own German from Russia family history and story.



One could almost feel the presence of our ancestors' spirits within the walls of the conference room as we absorbed the sobering reality of the ongoing war presented by Marilyn Murray. In her presentation "Ukraine & Russia: A Family at War," we learned how the citizens on both sides are heavily burdened with grief and sadness over the fractured situation and the loss of a bond that may never be restored.

I took advantage of participating in the Tuesday pre-conference tour to the Homestead National Monument of America. The remarkable Homestead Heritage Center successfully brought my grade school education to life. It is located on the nation's first 160-acre claim as homestead land by Daniel Freeman in 1863. You are transported back to an era of anticipation, determination, and dogged hard work to conquer the untamed land. Germans from Russia are celebrated for their contributions in the settlements of the wild prairie, just as their ancestors had 100 years earlier in Russia. I was tickled to be able to pick up booklets for the grandchildren so that they may learn about their 3X grandmother's childhood experience on the Nebraska prairie. It is one way of many ways I was able to act on AHSGR's mission of "Honoring the Past/Embracing the Future."

— Roz Rockweit

*Note from Carole: We are pleased to announce that Roz Rockweit has joined the National AHSGR Board to represent the state of Oregon. She is filling the position that had been held by Ed Wagner. A member of the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR since 2017, she comes with a lot of enthusiasm. While not a German from Russia herself, her husband is, and she has done a lot of research on his family. Her villages of interest are Schuck, Kamenka, and Pfeifer, and her surnames are Klobertanz, Fässer, Schächtel, Rohwein & Weigel. She is starting out her term of service by serving on the Membership Committee and the Marketing Committee.*

# Concordia Update

Dee Hert from the Intermountain AHSGR chapter offers the following update on the Concordia collection:

## **Concordia University Collection: Phase II**

Progress continues towards preparing the various donated items for patron use. The team consists of Dee Hert, Bud and Viki Strong, Mike Beier, Shari Stone, and Tyler and Patricia Bond.

The first phase was to itemize the entire collection, which required several months. We counted 400 surname charts which will eventually benefit countless researchers. Also of equal value are the hundreds of books and miscellaneous items. The books represent various geographic areas, US, Germany, South America and France, Caucasus, etc.

The second phase is to prepare the material for eventual patron use. Presently we are working on the collection of donated family histories. We remove pages from plastic sleeves and address individual issues. Material is then prepared to ensure required format. Several of us are working projects from home. Mike, being a retired librarian has gone to the extra effort of restoring pictures. Material is then given to the library experts to bind, enter in the catalog, and place on the shelves.

In addition to these steps the material will also be noted on the library wiki page.

I am hearing from family and friends who live on the west coast. They admitted being uncomfortable losing the library and not being able to find a location on the west coast. Then after further consideration they concluded that the FHL is the ideal location.

Sincere appreciation for understanding the worldwide value of the Family History Library and to Dr. Fritz Juengling for his superior negotiation skills and interest in the Germans from Russia culture. If Fritz was not interested the library would not have this material to share.

The library staff have recently informed me that surname charts will be available to the public soon. The library acquired so many charts that additional storage space is needed.

These materials are Volga, Bessarabia, Caucasus, and surrounding areas.

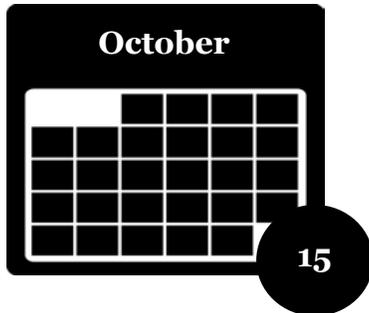
There are many additional records needing attention before they can be placed on the shelves. The chapter team is donating many hours to bring this material to the public. Check the library catalog often for items that will support your research.

**Watch for updates.**

Dee Hert  
Intermountain Chapter

# Upcoming Events

**Note: programs are subject to change because of COVID. Please check our website, Facebook page, or email/call a board member to find out about any changes.**

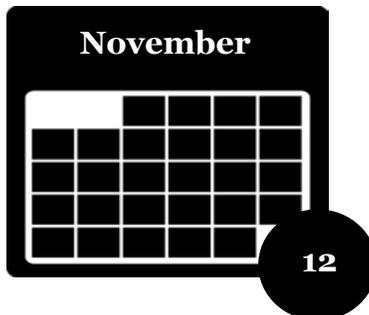


## **Donna and Steve Tetrault: Germany tour recap**

*October 15, 2022, 2pm*

*St. Michael's Lutheran Church*

Donna and Steve Tetrault traveled to Germany this summer on a tour organized by Drs. Brent Mai and Mila Koretnikov. The tour took them to historical sites of significance to Volga German settlers. Donna and Steve will share details of their trip so the rest of us can live vicariously through their experiences.



## **Carolyn Schott: From Church Archives to KGB Archives**

*November 12, 2pm*

*St. Michael's Lutheran Church*

Carolyn Schott is returning for another great program. Follow the tale of a German family that immigrated to Russia. After years of peaceful prosperity, the fate of two branches of the family diverge. One branch immigrated to the U.S. while the other suffered under the Soviet regime, losing their homes and, for some, their lives. We'll blend historical events and records used to document the story of this family.

## **Treffen Tuesdays**

*Last Tuesday of every month on Zoom (3:30-5:30pm Pacific Standard Time)*

Join AHSGR's monthly speaker series on a variety of topics. For more information and to register for attendance, visit the Treffen Tuesday registration page (linked in the email every month).



# *Recipe: Cheese-Beer Bread*



*Recipe and photo by Heather Arndt Anderson*

*What better way to enjoy a crisp beer than with a slice of warm, cheesy beer bread? You can use whatever beer you have laying around for this recipe, but we like the flavor of a wheaty, malty Weissbier here, which balances well with a sharp cheese. It pairs perfectly with German lentil soup. Makes 1 loaf.*

*(This recipe appears in the September 30 issue of the Superabundant newsletter, to which you are free to subscribe at [www.opb.org/show/superabundant/](http://www.opb.org/show/superabundant/))*

## **INGREDIENTS:**

2½ cups all-purpose flour  
½ cup whole wheat flour  
3 tsp baking powder  
2 tbsp sugar  
1 tsp kosher salt  
½ tsp ground black pepper  
12 oz beer  
¼ cup vegetable oil or melted butter  
½ cup shredded or finely diced cheese (sharp cheddar works well here)

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Position a rack in the middle of your oven, preheat to 350o, and grease a loaf pan. (You can add a strip of parchment down the center if sticking is an issue!)
2. Whisk together the flours, baking powder, sugar, salt and pepper in a medium mixing bowl. Pour in the beer and oil or melted butter and mix until combined, then stir in the cheese.
3. Scrape the thick batter into the prepared pan and bake for 50-60 minutes (or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean), then run a knife along the edge of the loaf to dislodge it. Gently turn it out onto a cooling rack and cool for 20 minutes before slicing.

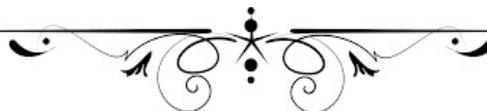
## Summer Picnic Recap



A very warm thank-you goes out to Lela Miller for hosting the Oregon chapter picnic in August. It was well attended and the tables groaned with delicious things to eat, including Emily Schmidt's wonderful grebbels. (Her recipe, from Mary Weigandt, appears in the Fall 2021 newsletter.) Your newsletter editor brought real Schwartzbeerenkuchen made with homegrown berries.

Lela brought out some photos and memorabilia from her collection, which we passed around. Herb Femling provided genetic tests for interested members to take home. Family Tree DNA is able to link known relationships in family trees and can help members discover how closely related we may be to one another.

While we sat around in a circle eating and sharing stories, it was really remarkable to see such dedication to preserving our culture. Hopefully we'll see more young people at future gatherings! (Heather's 12 year-old son ate his weight in grebbel, drank two pints of milk, and then fell asleep sitting upright on Lela's shady back patio. It's good to see some things never change.)



# 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
Annual Donation:	\$
<b>Total Enclosed:</b>	<b>\$</b>

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

**AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER**

**P.O. Box 55218**

**Portland, Oregon 97238-5218**

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

**oregonahsgr@gmail.com**

The Oregon Chapter of AHSGR is a tax-exempt non-profit 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)

PLEASE NOTE: Additional dues are required for membership in the AHSGR International Organization. (See [www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm](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,

# AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER

P.O. Box 55218

Portland, Oregon 97238-5218

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City

---

## Chapter Officers

***President:***

Carole M. Hayden  
cnees@comcast.net

***First Vice President:***

Ed Wagner

***Second Vice President:***

Vacant

***Secretary:***

Marilyn Schultz

***Treasurer:***

Jim Holstein  
503-367-1757  
jimholstein@gmail.com

***Newsletter Editor:***

Heather Arndt Anderson

## Directors

Joan Porter

Donna Tetrault

Michael Frank

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

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.

The Chronicle Unserer Leute (Chronicle of Our People) is published quarterly the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR. Keep up to date with the latest news and events from the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR on our website: [www.oregonahsgr.org](http://www.oregonahsgr.org)  
Follow us on social media: [facebook.com/groups/AHSGR.Oregon](https://facebook.com/groups/AHSGR.Oregon)