Mark Your Calendar
Saturday, January 4, 10 am—Noon
Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

Saturday, January 18, Noon—3 pm
Oregon Chapter Program - Potluck

Saturday, February 1, 10 am—Noon
Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

Sunday, February 16, 2 pm—4 pm
Oregon Chapter Program

Catherine II, the Great
Empress of Russia

Oregon Chapter Program
Saturday, January 18, Noon - 3 p.m.

Panel Discussion: Growing Up in Portland's German-Russian Neighborhood

Location: The Center for Volga German Studies

Join us to hear different perspectives on life in Portland's German-Russian neighborhoods in North and Northeast Portland. We'll have a very interesting panel who will provide first hand accounts of their experiences growing up and living in the Albina area of Portland. The program will begin at noon with a potluck lunch. All chapter members and the general public are welcome to attend. Don't miss it!

DUES

It’s time for AHSGR Membership Renewals for both the Oregon Chapter and International. Please, if you haven’t yet submitted your dues for 2014 to both, please do so at this time.

See page 12.

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Steve Schreiber

2014 Oregon Chapter President

Regarding his family background, Steve was born in Portland and has Volga German ancestry on both his mother and father's sides of the family. His father's family is from Norka and his mother's family's lived in Dietel, Frank, Brunnental and Warenburg. Steve has been a member of the Oregon Chapter since the mid-1990's and has served on the board during much of that time. He is also a Life Member of AHSGR International. He also worked with Brent Mai and Ed Wagner to establish the Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon.

Steve has a Bachelor of Science, Finance and Accounting from Oregon State University and is currently working as a consultant with Jviation, an airport planning and engineering firm based in Denver.

Jviation, Inc., an aviation-focused planning, engineering and construction management firm, has hired Steven Schreiber as a Senior Consultant based in Portland, Oregon. Schreiber will be responsible for expanding Jviation’s client base in the Pacific Northwest of the United States.

Recognized as an industry leader in airport financial management, operations, customer service, environmental management and air service development, Schreiber brings 27 years of experience in managing large commercial service and general aviation airports. Previously with the Port of Portland, Schreiber served in various roles including Aviation Finance Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Operation Services, and Director of Aviation for Portland International Airport and two general aviation airports in the greater Portland metropolitan area (GPMA). During his tenure with the Port of Portland, Schreiber was instrumental in successfully issuing over $1 billion in Airport Revenue Bonds and obtained one of the highest airport bond ratings (AA-) from Standards & Poor's.

From March 2009 to November 2011, Schreiber served as the Director of Aviation for Portland International Airport, where he implemented an airport wide customer service program that resulted in Portland International Airport being recognized as the “Best U.S. Airport” four out of five years by Condé Nast Traveler Magazine and two consecutive years by Zagat. Under Schreiber's leadership, Portland International Airport was recognized as one of the leaders in environmental sustainability and community outreach by Airports Council International. He successfully completed the construction of a new LEED Platinum corporate office building, a 3,300 space parking garage, reconstruction of two primary runways and a new high-speed baggage screening system during his tenure with the Airport.

Schreiber served as a member of the American Association of Airport Executives Policy Review Committee and as a member of the Oregon State Aviation Board.

Let's all welcome Steve to his new position as Chapter President. Challenging, yet promising times lie ahead for the group and with hard work, the future of the group is bright.
Mark Your Calendars
Sunday, February 16th at 2:00 p.m.

**Presentation by Robert Manicke**

**Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany for Oregon and Idaho**

*Location: The Center for Volga German Studies*

Robert Manicke is the Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany for Oregon and Idaho. He will discuss his role acting on behalf of the German government and the current state of German-American relationships.

All chapter members and the general public are welcome and urged to attend. This will be a wonderful program.

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A payment was received from AHSGR International for expenses related to the 2012 Convention which was held at Concordia University in Portland and hosted by the Oregon AHSGR Chapter and the Center for Volga German Studies.

Thanks once again to all the volunteers who helped make the 2012 Convention such a success!

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**2013 Christmas Party**

The 2013 Oregon Chapter Christmas Party was held at St. Michael’s Church near Concordia University. Though the attendees were small in number, they made up for it with Christmas spirit.

There were many Christmas goodies offered for the guests. Members told wonderful stories of Christmas past. Christmas songs were sung in German and English.

In addition, the installation of officers and directors for 2014 was completed.

We all wish for you the blessings of a joyous New Year.

*Installation of new officers and board members*
New Year's Traditions

From: NORKA, A German Colony in Russia
http://www.volgagermans.net/norka/traditions.html

The days from late-December until early January were filled with traditions, many of which had been transplanted from the colonists’ places of origin in Germanic Europe and influenced over time by their new homeland in Russia.

At the approach of the Neujahrseifer (New Year's celebration), it was time to not only remember all that had happened in the year just past, but also a time to look forward with hope to the year ahead.

From December 25th to January 6th, each of the 12 days predicted the weather for the coming 12 months. For example, the weather on December 27th represented what was to be expected in March of the next year. Others predicted the weather based on the observation of onion skins sprinkled with salt.

Many marriages took place during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. The traditional wedding date was the second day of Christmas (December 26th) when multiple couples would gather to take their marriage vows.

The New Year's celebration began with the Neujahrsmesse (New Year's Eve church service). The service was held in the schoolhouse because the church in Norka was closed during the winter due the difficulty of heating the large wooden church and the ever present danger of a fire.

As the worship service ended, the bells in the tower rang loudly signaling a farewell to the old year.

In Norka, the Christkind (Christ-child) made an appearance as she did on Weihnachten (Christmas). On this holiday, the Neujahrsmann (the New Year's Man) also visited the village. The Neujahrsmann was a tradition brought from the colonists homelands in the 1760s. This character went from house to house and wished the residents good luck and blessing in the coming year. In return, he received a small token of money or a drink of vodka or schnapps.

At midnight, the Neujahr (New Year) was also received with the ringing of bells. All the men in the village celebrated with a great enthusiasm and noise making.

Adults greeted each other on the arrival of the New Year. Traditionally, the first "visit" would start between four o'clock and five o'clock in the morning at the home of the godparents, then they visited the in-laws, then aunts and uncles and friends.

Beginning in the mid-1800s, those greeting a family often fired their shotgun (which was decorated with ribbons and loaded with the smallest shot) either into the air, or at the front door, to awaken the entire family. The greeter immediately opens the door and shouts "Good Morning!" and then recognizes all of those present in the house, "Godfather and Mother", "Aunt and Uncle", "Father-in-law and Mother-in-law", etc.

Then the greeter recites a New Year's wish in the form of a poem, such as:

Ich wünsche Euch Glück zum neuen Jahr, Gesundheit, Friede und Einigkeit, ein lange Leben und nach Eurem Tode die ewige Seligkeit.  
(I wish you good luck for the New Year, health, peace and unity, a long life and after your death, the eternal salvation of the soul.)

The praised homeowners would then thank the greeters with vodka, cold snacks of sausage, ham, salt pork and small gifts such as handkerchiefs.
All shooting in the colony stopped before the first ringing of the bells in the New Year, but the greetings continued:

_Viel tausend Halleluja, Das ist mein Wunsch zum neuen Jahr, O Jesu mache alles wahr! Many thousands of Hallelujah's, This is my wish for the New Year, Oh Jesus make everything right!_

_Wir wunschen euch, ein glückeliges neues Jahr, Langes Leben, Gesundheit, Freude un Einigkeit Nach Eitem Tod, des Himmelsreich! We wish you all, a blessed new year, Long life, health, peace and unity, And after your death [may you enjoy] the kingdom of heaven!_

At five o'clock in the morning on New Year's day, all the young people went to congratulate their parents, grandparents and the godparents on the arrival of the New Year. They recited a New Year poem they had been taught as small children:


_Good morning dearest parents, I wish you joy in the New Year. May God nourish your soul. Amen, yes, it will come true! Happiness in the house, luck in the field. God has made everything in the home. So much happiness and many blessings like drops of rain, all happiness is revealed, Amen, yes, it will come true!_

The young people received copper coins or candy in thanks for their greetings.

The greetings continued until dawn at which time the family would gather for the traditional New Year's breakfast of baked ham or mutton, thin pies, pastries, Grebble (a type of donut) other special holiday foods. Prayers were said before the meal began. During the meal, musicians arrived and greeted the household with their clarinets and flutes and playing both folk and church songs. The musicians were treated to hospitality from the household and also given money (from 30 kopecks to one ruble) in appreciation.

After lunch, at around 2:00 p.m., young people gathered for sledding on the streets, which continued into nightfall.

There was also a large dinner on New Year's day which usually featured the winter courses of pork, homemade sausage and potatoes. After the main courses were consumed they enjoyed Riwwelkuchen, Grebble, Pfannkuchen, Krumelkuchen (Zuckerkuchen) and enjoyed special teas such as Süßholztee, Steppente, Schwarztee which were expensive and reserved for the holidays. They also enjoy kvass, fruit coffees and a special coffee substitute called Prips, which was made from baked wheat, rye and yeast. Of course, large quantities of vodka, schnapps, beer and wine were also consumed while toasts such as, Zur Gesundheit! (To your health!), were made and folk songs were sung.

After dinner, young people skated on frozen ponds until nightfall and then gathered in homes vacated by the adults to play music, sing and dance. Adults met in other homes to enjoy many of the same activities as the young people.

Late into the evening, everyone went home to sleep, content in the knowledge that the New Year was off to a good start.

Do you have stories or traditions to share about your family. Please contact Michael Frank or Brent Mai.
Relevant Dates in Our Germans-from-Russia Heritage and Beyond
1517 Oct 31 - Martin Luther nails his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church
1729 Apr 21 - Birth of Sophia Augusta Frederica of Anhalt-Zerbst in Germany
   Later known as Catherine II (Catherine the Great)
1762 Jun 28 - Catherine II ascends to the throne of Russia
1762 Dec 4 - Catherine II issues her first manifesto,
   Inviting foreigners to Russia
1763 Jul 22 - Catherine II issues her second manifesto - Another invitation
1756 - 1763 - Seven Years War
1764 - 1767 - Founding of the first Volga-German Mother Colonies
1771 - 1774 - Pugachev's Rebellion and Kirghiz Raids
1796 Nov 6 - Death of Catherine II at the age of 67
1871 Jun 4 - Repeal of Catherine II Manifesto
   Terminating Special Privileges to Germans
1874 Jan 13 - Russian Decree Requiring Compulsory Military
   Service for German Colonists
1882 - Portland’s Volga-German Community Established
1905 - Concordia University Founded in Portland
1914 Jul 28 - World War I Begins
1916 Dec 13 - Volga-Germans Ordered to be Banished (Not Implemented)
1918 Jul 16 - Tsar Nicholas II & Family Executed
1917 Nov 17 - Bolshevik Revolution led by Lenin
1918 Jun 29 - Volga German Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic Created
1920 - 1923 Great Famine in Russia
1941 Jun 22 - Germany Invades Russia - Operation Barbarossa
1941 Aug 28 - Forced Deportation of Volga-Germans to Siberia and Middle Asia
1968 - AHSGR Created
1971 Apr 25 - AHSGR Oregon Chapter Formation
1971 Nov 21 - AHSGR Oregon Chapter Charter Created
1973 - Portland AHSGR Convention
1978 - Germans from Russia Heritage Collection (GRHC) at NDSU Formed
1987 - Portland AHSGR Convention
2004 - CVGS Envisioned
2009 Oct 24-25 - CVGS Grand Opening
2012 - Portland AHSGR Convention
2014 Jun 27-29 - Celebration at CVGS of the 250th Anniversary of the founding
   of Dobrinka, the first Volga-German Mother Colony
2014 - Lincoln AHSGR Convention
2015 - Billings AHSGR Convention
2017 - 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
Pope Clement XIII
(CARLO DELLA TORRE REZZONICO)

His Reign 1758-1769 during the Volga-German Migrations

Born at Venice, 7 March, 1693; died at Rome, 2 February, 1769. He was educated by the Jesuits at Bologna, took his degrees in law at Padua, and in 1716 was appointed at Rome referendary of the two departments known as the "Signatura Justitiae" and the "Signatura Gratiae". He was made governor of Rieti in 1716, of Fano in 1721, and Auditor of the Rota for Venice in 1725. In 1737 he was made cardinal-deacon, and in 1743 Bishop of Padua, where he distinguished himself by his zeal for the formation and sanctification of his clergy, to promote which he held a synod in 1746, and published a very remarkable pastoral on the priestly state. His personal life was in keeping with his teaching, and the Jansenist Abbé Clément, a grudging witness, tells us that "he was called the saint (by his people), and was an exemplary man who, notwithstanding the immense revenues of his diocese and his private estate, was always without money owing to the lavishness of his alms-deeds, and would give away even his linen". In 1747 he became cardinal-priest, and on 6 July, 1758, he was elected pope to succeed Benedict XIV. It was with tears that he submitted to the will of the electors, for he gauged well the force and direction of the storm which was gathering on the political horizon.

From http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/people/pope_clement_XIII.htm
Volga Village Founding Dates

Courtesy of the Center for Volga German Studies
Concordia University, Portland, Oregon

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Neu-Straub

In helping research village coordinates for the V-G milestone chart project, Brent Mai came across this ramshackle dwelling in the village of Neu-Straub. Not sure what this family does for a living, but there are many who would want a piece of the action.
COOL INTERNET WEBSITES:

The Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University (CVGS)
http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/

AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter - Chronicle Unsere Leute
http://ahsgrogoregon.com/publications.html

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia International
http://ahsgr.org

NDSU Libraries - Germans from Russia Heritage Collection
http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/

The Volga Germans in Portland, Oregon
http://www.volgagermans.net/portland/

Norka—A German Colony in Russia
http://www.volgagermans.net/norka/

Frank-Kolb, Russia Website

Brunnental, Russia Website

Kautz, Russia Website
http://home.comcast.net/~dm48/kautz/

Merkel, Russia Website
http://home.comcast.net/~dm48/merkel/merkel.htm

Genealogical Forum of Oregon
http://www.gfo.org/

Find-A-Grave
http://www.findagrave.com/

Find-A-Grave (Kautz Village)
http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=2468678&CScn=kautz&

Russian and German Keyboard Online (workd with many other languages also)
http://www.lexilogos.com/keyboard/russian.htm

Google Translate
http://translate.google.com/#auto/ru/russian

Birthdate Calculator
http://www.progenealogists.com/birthfromdeath.htm

A Trip to the Volga-German Villages in the Frank Canton
http://volgadeutsche.net/spack/reise_eng/Reise_1.htm

Landsmannschaft der Deutschland aus Russland
http://www.lMDR.de

Budingen Marriages 1766 - German Colonists Emigrating to Russia
http://www.femling.com/gen/balzer/budmar.htm

A Long Fascinating Journey
http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/history_culture/volga/files/story.pdf

Rootsweb Worldconnect
http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/

Russian Archives
http://www.dobrinka.org/archives/

Volgograd Archives
Christmas Eve of the Volga Germans

Sent by Leandro Hilt

Transcribed from a special supplement "Christmas came for all" daily Eldia Gualeguaychú. - December 24, 2013

Christmas was one of the most important (holidays) for the Germans who lived on both banks of the Volga River in Tsarist Russia religious celebrations. It is a celebration of hope, unity, joy and optimism. In the remote villages in Russia, on Christmas eve houses were cleaned thoroughly and were decorated with greenery, flowers and decorations, inside and outside. The most important element of the party was, and remains, the Christmas tree. They were assembled in every home, church and school. At this time of celebration, many decorated cakes and all kinds of cookies and homemade chocolates were prepared. The gatherings started in the afternoon of Christmas Eve. The colonists dressed for the occasion in their best clothes and went to church with their hymnals for the celebration of worship. At the end, children received gift gingerbread and sweets, which were in the Christmas tree of the Church. By late afternoon, people returned to their homes to begin the celebration and dinner at home. As families were gathered, suddenly appeared a man dressed in sheepskin coat, a big hat and big boots. In one hand was a bell and the other a whip or rod. His name Pelznickel. This character was looking for children who had misbehaved during the year. He walked through the house dragging chains and a big bag to put the little ones, that by now they were all hiding under tables and beds. With just his name during the year, parents ensured that their children be good students, collaborators and very respectful. This custom persisted even in immigrant families who settled in Argentina. My parents say that when they were children and they misbehaved, they were threatened with the appearance of Pelznickel. But unlike Russia, apparently never saw him.

After the visit of the Christmas character, came home the Christkind who was a messenger boy Jesus coming down from heaven by a long staircase. Usually it was a woman dressed all in white and her face covered by a thick veil. In one hand she carried a whip and other sweets and toys. Very gently asked the children if they had behaved well during the year, to which all answered yes. The proof was that the Pelznickel had not taken any. Recall that in general those families had many children. Christkind made them read a prayer, promise to be obedient and always pray to God every day. The children answered that they would fulfill that promise and received gifts of sweets and toys, without losing sight of the whip. Children often tried to lift the veil covering the face to kiss Christkind, an action that ended with a severe and painful punishment by parents accusing them of wanting to see what they should not. This ritual was different in different colonies, depending on differences in religious denominations. These practices, Volga Germans, scaring children, were gradually disappearing. Now every year Santa Claus comes, quietly and secretly, with gifts for everyone.

Ethnic Festivals in the Portland Metro Area and beyond...

German Oktoberfest—Oaks Park—7805 SE Oaks Park Way
Polish Festival—3900 N. Interstate Avenue
Greek Festival—3131 NE Glisan
Scan Fair—Scandinavian Festival
Sausage Fest—Vancouver, WA
Volga-German Oktoberfest—Odessa, WA (3rd weekend of September)
Other Oktoberfests: Mt. Angel, Bend, Jacksonville, Leavenworth
Volga-German Mileage Chart  by Michael Frank

These past couple of months I have been working on a special project (Excel spreadsheet) to calculate distances between 114 Volga-German villages in the Volga’s Wiesenseite (east of the Volga river) and selected Russian towns using published GPS coordinates. The villages include:


My thanks to Brent Mai and Dorothy Brandner and other Oregon chapter members for their invaluable support in making these charts a reality.

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If you have ideas for stories, photos, or other items you think might be of genealogical interest to the members of the Oregon Chapter, please direct them to me, Michael Frank, Newsletter Editor, dm48@comcast, or call me at 360/601/7361. Thank you.

Happy New Year!!
AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Form

Membership fees are for one calendar year that **renew each January 1st.**

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

Membership Year 20___

New Member ____ Renewal ____ Individual ____ Family _________

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 service 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:

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

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

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

Questions? Contact Jim Holstein at jimholstein@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.

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.
## January 2014

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 New Years Day</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>14 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>18 Oregon Chapter Program Potluck - Noon to 3 pm</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>21 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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## February 2014

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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1 Chapter Board Meeting 10 am</td>
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<td>4 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>18 President's Day</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>25 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER
P.O. Box 55218
Portland, Oregon 97238-5218

Address
Address
Address
Address

Chapter Officers

President:
Steve Schreiber
6806 S.E 35th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97202
503-774-9753

First Vice President:
Open

Second Vice President:
Bob Thom
503-635-6651
503-978-4466
bobthorn@hotmail.com

Secretary:
Mary Burbank
503-639-4381

Treasurer:
Jim Holstein
503-367-1757
Jimholstein@gmail.com

Directors

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(2014)

Harold Kammerzell
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(2015)

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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.

The Chronicle Unserer Leute (Chronicle of Our People) is published bimonthly by the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR.

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

Oregon Chapter Website
http://ahsgroregon.com/index.html