Oregon Chapter Program

AHSGR Oregon Chapter May Program and Potluck Lunch

Bob Wagner - AHSGR National President
The Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University
Portland, Oregon
Saturday, May 17th, 12 pm - 3 pm (potluck)

Robert (Bob) Wagner has recently been elected as President of AHSGR with responsibilities for the international organization. Bob will share some of the key initiatives and challenges that AHSGR is working on this year. Please plan to attend and show Bob our Oregon Chapter hospitality.

This meeting begins with a potluck lunch at noon and a program to follow at 1:00 pm.

Friday-Saturday, June 27-28 - German American Society

250th Anniversary of the Founding of Dobrinka — 1764—

June 27-28, 2014 - 250th Anniversary of the founding of Dobrinka, the First Volga German Colony (June 29, 1764) held at the German American Society in Portland, Oregon. Address is NE 57th and Sandy Blvd, Portland. Registration required...To register, contact Sue Cotton (503-493-6369) or visit the website: http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/events/2014Jun27.cfm

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AHSGR Oregon Chapter Events:

**May 17, 2014** - Chapter Meeting - **Bob Wagner**, Featured Speaker (AHSGR National/International President)

**August 30, 2014** - Chapter picnic at Florence Bauder’s family’s **Camp Emerald Forest** west of St. Helens. (page 14).

**October 19, 2014** - Herb Femling presentation on the German origins of colonists migrating to Denmark and later to the Volga. Annual Elections.

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New Staff at CVGS!!!

**Sue Cotton** has been hired to be the operations coordinator for the Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) at Concordia University. A native of North Carolina, Sue comes to Concordia with a wealth of marketing and fundraising experience. Most recently, she had been working with the Concordia University Foundation on a scholarship fundraising campaign. Before that she served as the outreach coordinator for Crossroads Community Church in Vancouver, Wash., the sales and marketing director of the Springmoor Retirement Community in Raleigh, N.C., and the founder of a very successful start-up called Classical Conversations in Augusta, Georgia. Her educational background is in sociology from Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. For the CVGS, Sue will be coordinating event planning and spearhead our efforts in donor engagement and development. She joined the staff on April 1, 2014. You can contact her at 503/493-6369. **WELCOME SUE!**

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Upcoming CVGS-Sponsored Events

**June 27-28, 2014 (Friday and Saturday)** - The 250th anniversary of the founding of Dobrinka, the First Volga German Colony (June 29, 1764) will be held at the German American Society in Portland, Oregon. The address is NE 57th and Sandy Blvd. AHSGR Chapters of the Pacific Northwest have organized the Council of Northwest Chapters (CNC) which meets twice a year to share chapter news and ideas. The two-day mini-conferences and workshops are also a part of this get-together at the German-American Society. **Prepaid registration** through the CVGS is recommended to cover two lunches and Saturday night dinner and dance. Hotel space is pre-arranged for the group. If you are interested in attending any of the meetings or for general information and activities through the CNC, contact Jean A. Roth at (206) 782-2629 or email: jeanaroth@junoo.com. The events are sponsored by the **Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University (CVGS)** in Portland, Oregon.

Among the speakers who will be presenting during the 2-day conference: Dr. **Brent Mai**, Beaverton, Oregon, Jean A. Roth, Seattle, Washington, Dr. **Richard Scheuerman**, Spanaway, Washington, and Prof. **Fabian Schultheis**, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**June 29, 2014 (Sunday)** - CNC (Council of Northwest Chapters) meeting.


**August 2, 2014** – 250th Anniversary of the founding of Schilling & Galka held at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas.

**August 9, 2014** – 250th Anniversary of the Founding of Beideck held at Denver Lutheran High School in Parker, Colorado.

**August 16, 2014** – Norka Day held at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon.

**August 23, 2014** – CVGS is hosting a visit to Portland by **Mila Koretnikov**, researcher from Rattstadt, Germany.

**September 18-20, 2014** – CVGS will be presenting at the Deutschesfest in Odessa, Washington.
On Sunday, April 13, Yulia Tsymbal
gave some insight into her life, her travels, and the
work she does as Archive Special Projects Coordinator
for AHSGR International in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Yulia grew up in Moscow, Russia. She has a MA in
English and Linguistics and BA in German from
Moscow Institute of Teaching Foreign Languages
(Linguistic University since the 1990s). In 1993 she left
Russia with her physicist husband and two daughters,
and lived in Germany and England before coming to
Lincoln, Nebraska in 2002, where her husband accept-
ed a position at the University of Nebraska. Before
joining AHSGR staff in 2004, Yulia worked as a volunteer translator for a year. Besides working
part-time at the headquarters, she has been interpreting, translating, and teaching Russian at
UNO and Lincoln Public Schools. She has been traveling to different parts of the world with
her husband, including regular visits to Russia. Her hobbies include gardening, yoga, hiking,
cross-country skiing and Irish dancing.

We thank her for her visit to Portland and look forward to seeing her at the convention.

Chapter Meeting at Zion Church, Portland
A wonderful time was had by chapter members on March 15 at the former Zion Church building, now
Door of Hope church. Steve Schreiber gave an eloquent talk about the history of the Zion church, the
neighborhood and its followers. A pastor of the Door of Hope church talked extensively about its acquisi-
tion and subsequent remodeling. Hymns were sung. Many of the furnishings of the new church were left-
overs from the previous church. One must visit the site to appreciate the care and attention to detail of

church staff in bringing sparkle to a neighbor-
hood landmark. We salute the
effort and appreciate the
extra time
chapter members
were given to
explore the
church and
surrounding
grounds.
Roy Conrad Derring - Norka

I was a first-born American in Portland, Oregon Oct. 3, 1939 to my immigrant parents Conrad and Petra Derring along with my four older sisters Donna, Shirley, Carol and Nancy. My ancestral village is Norka.

I attended Woodlawn Grade School and Jefferson High School. In all those years of students with obvious VG last names, absolutely none of us, including myself, ever brought up or even had it enter our minds to mention to one another, “Are you of German from Russia background?” We all were simply all-American kids, doing all-American things at the advent of Rock and Roll.

My immigrant parents had assimilated as well with us kids. We all spoke English. Yet when it came to my parents immigrant relatives and immigrant friends, they amongst themselves spoke their first language, but not all the time.

We never as a family lived down in the German from Russia ethnic neighborhood, but my father would end up down there visiting or cavorting with his “countrymen”. I traveled around with him from home to home and from tavern to tavern.

I am a Veteran and spent about six years in the U.S. Army Infantry. I was stationed in Germany for two years from 1960 to 1962 at Muenster Kaserne located 17km from Darmstadt and 31km from Frankfurt. At the time, I had no clue that this was the area that many of our ancestors left Germany to settle the Volga. I have been back to Germany several times and visited Buedingen among so many other towns and villages.

I am a self taught multi-media freelance artist. I also am a collectibles and antique dealer.

With regards to the chapter banner, back in late 1990, I, without hesitation, volunteered to take over the project, putting everything else on hold and worked on the design and the construction of it for one entire month.

Here also, I am sending along my little speech I had prepared, at the unveiling of the banner to the joy expressed by all:

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,
I am Roy Conrad Derring and I am very happy today that I can make this presentation.
The theme of the presentation is: "Out of our abundant heritage comes a golden harvest".
For all intents and purposes, this new chapter banner comes with much meaning, depth, character, and worth, symbolic of our German heritage.
For the artwork, first I must thank God for the spiritual inspiration that he has given me.
I thank also my mother for my birth and life.
    I thank my father for his courage and fighting spirit.
    I thank both of my parents and my four sisters for their endless love.
And now at present, dear ladies and gentlemen, I thank everyone here in this grand organization, this historical society, that have made this presentation possible. Thank you.

The English translation on the bottom of the banner that reads: ‘Out of our abundant heritage comes a golden harvest’, really signifies that the golden harvest is what all the immigrants and their descendants here in America have truly been blessed to reap that harvest. Those who unfortunately for whatever reason remained behind in Russia including my Grandmother, my three uncles and one aunt, faced persecution, systematic starvation and genocide, murder by firing squad, families split apart and hauled off in cattle cars on trains to Siberia and Kazakhstan. One hundred million people worldwide have been systematically the result of genocide. Twenty to forty million of that genocide was in Russia alone. Yet, we never hear about it. We hear continually of the other Holocaust, but I keep asking myself, why don’t we ever hear over and over about what the Russian Communists have done? Where is their apology and retribution? Where are the monuments regarding the holocaust and genocide that they were responsible for? Thank God for all those who came here to provide for us a legacy of a Golden Harvest!
Spotlight: Helen Roloff

Helen Anna Huber Roloff was born March 21, 1926 to Katherine Elizabeth Repp Huber and Jacob Huber in College Place, WA. College Place is in the southeast corner of Washington just west of Walla Walla.

Both of Helen’s parents were born in Russia in the Volga village of Dobrinka, one of the southernmost villages. They were married in Dobrinka in 1907. Helen believes her parents immigrated to the United States in 1908 and first settled in Oklahoma. She isn’t sure how long they were there but they moved from Oklahoma to Denver, Colorado probably because her father had a sister and brother living there. From Colorado they moved to Rexburg, Idaho to homestead and raise sugar beets. After a few years in Rexburg and experiencing the birth of two sons, they decided to move to College Place, WA. The decision to move was motivated by the fact that sugar beet farming in Idaho was turning out to be extremely difficult and life there very hard and Washington seemed like a better place to try to raise sugar beets. The fact that they already had family in College Place was a huge plus for moving there. It was in College Place, then, that Helen was born.

Helen’s mother was quite ill after her daughter’s birth and found it very difficult to care for two growing sons and a baby daughter. So when Helen was two years old her uncle and aunt from Denver came to get her and she lived with them in Denver from age 2 to 7 years. At age 7 she was able to go back home to Washington to live with her parents and brothers. There she spent the rest of her growing up years.

Helen attended elementary and high school at the Seventh Day Adventist Academy in College Place and then also attended one year at the community college there taking pre-nursing studies. In September of 1945 she moved to Portland to attend nursing school at the Portland Sanitarium and Hospital on S.E. 60th and Belmont. After three years of study she graduated and became a registered nurse. She was on the IV team at Physicians and Surgeons Hospital and worked in conjunction with the pharmacy in mixing IV solutions and drugs including the starting and administering IV therapy to patients. She worked there until the hospital closed and then worked in Oregon City at Willamette Falls Hospital continuing in her specialty of IV therapy. She worked as an RN until she was 77 years old retiring in 2004!

In Portland she met Leo Daniel Roloff and they were married in 1950. He was a painting contractor and did work on some of the beautiful West Hills homes in Portland. He was a very talented painter and his work was in great demand. They had one son and one daughter. Her son, a software engineer, lives in Milwaukee. Her daughter, an archeologist, lives in Vale, Oregon. She and her husband, also an archeologist, work for the Bureau of Land Management.

Helen has a granddaughter, Kristina, who lives in Indiana, and a grandson who graduated from West Point and is now stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington.

Helen does not know where her ancestors migrated from in Europe but has found some evidence that they left German lands and settled briefly in Denmark. They apparently did not find the climate or farming opportunities to their liking so they went on to the Volga Region in Russia. She does not know when they settled in the village of Dobrinka.

Even before she retired Helen was fortunate to find a wonderful travel group through Rick Steves and has made five trips to Europe. She has traveled in England, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain and Italy. She saw the Eiffel Tower on her 65th birthday with wonderful friends.

Helen has been a member of AHSGR since 1987, the year her husband died. She said she received a call from Cliff Haberman who saw her husband’s obituary in the newspaper and asked her if by any chance her family were Germans from Russia. The rest is history, as they say. Helen says what she enjoys most about AHSGR is the camaraderie, the stories, and learning more history.

Thank you, Helen, for so generously sharing your time and your most interesting family history.

Thank you, Thelma Wiest, for bringing this SPOTLIGHT to the fore. Look for more member Spotlights in future issues.
Kevin Rupp - A Short Biography

My involvement with AHSGR started in 2007 when I was a **co-chairman for the AHSGR Convention** that was held in Hays, Kansas. During that convention I was **asked to join the Board** and have remained active ever since. Before I tell about my involvement, perhaps I should give a little background. I am a second generation German from Russian and on father’s side and a fourth generation on my mother’s side. My paternal village is Obermunjou. My mother’s ancestors, Joseph Anton Giebler, left Obermunjou, Russian and arrived in Ellis County, Kansas, making their home first in Catharine, Kansas on August 6, 1877 and later on a farm in Severin, Kansas. My father’s grandparent’s, Casper and Margaretha (Faller) Rupp, arrived in Ellis County, Kansas and settled in the village of Herzog (now Victoria), Kansas on August 3, 1876. My father’s mother, Rosa (Graf) Groff, arrived in Ellis County, Kansas in 1909 from Louis, Russia and settled in Hays, Kansas.

Growing up in the 1960’s the German language was spoken in the houses of my grandparents. My grandparent’s in Hays spoke a little different German dialect than my grandparents in Severin. My parents could understand them, but I don’t remember them speaking back to them in German. The food of the German-Russians was a staple in our home as well was the music. I remember my grandfather singing many of the songs that were brought over from the Volga, most of them being the religious songs.

My grandfather’s half-sister arrived at our home many times to have my mother do her sewing for her. During these visits she would tell me the stories that were told to her as she grew up. She was the one in the family who was interested in genealogy and instilled in me an interest. Unfortunately, by the time I was very interested in my history my grandmother had already died. It wasn’t until Leona Pfeifer asked me to join the local Sunflower Chapter of AHSGR in the 1980’s did I become active on a local level. My involvement was pretty low-key serving off and on until about 1996 when I became a lifetime member. I was made president of the local chapter and served in various capacities ever since.

Like I mentioned in the beginning of this article, my involvement with AHSGR started after the Hays, Kansas convention in 2007. I was elected to the **Board of Directors** and was placed as the **Archives Chair** which is a position I have held since the fall of 2007. This position has been very challenging in trying to get documents on the Germans from Russia from the Russian archives, namely, Volgograd, Engels, Saratov, and Samara. This has not been a easy task, but we are just now slowly getting in more documents. Keep watching the AHSGR newsletter for announcements on what we have been able to obtain. AHSGR is very concerned about accessing documents with the help of the archives and following all copyright laws. Because of this, it has been a slow process, especially making these available to our members. Items for which copyrights may be in question are placed in the AHSGR research library for in house research only.

I also serve on the **Historical Research Committee**, which goes hand in hand with the Archives committee and also the Editorial and Publications committee.

As many of you know, it takes many volunteers to help run the Society. We do not have the staff that can perform all the tasks that need to be accomplished. With the death of Teri Helzer I was asked to take over the managing of the Society’s website, AHSGR.ORG. I was happy to do this and have made a few modifications over the years, hopefully for the better.

I drive up to Lincoln, Nebraska at least twice a year for board meetings, in the fall and in the spring. The summer board meeting is held at the yearly convention of which I also try to attend if they are close enough to drive to. With all this I try to offer as much support as I can to the Society, helping out when and where I can with technology, membership and convention. I find serving on the board to be gratifying, frustrating, exciting and very informative. When I first joined the board, Leona Pfeifer, my mentor, told me during my first year to keep my eyes and ears open and my mouth shut. Well, that lasted for one meeting.

When I am not doing Society related activities, I try to manage my web pages, [www.volgagerman.net](http://www.volgagerman.net) and [www.sunflowerchapterofahsgr.net](http://www.sunflowerchapterofahsgr.net). I also work on my genealogy and have a database of about 100,000 souls encompassing Ellis County, Kansas with their connections to the various villages. I also am active as a **Village Coordinator** for the villages of Obermunjou, Louis, Rohleder, Luzern, Wittmann, Neu-Obermunjou and Zug. I am also **co-coordinator** with Denise Grau of Mariantal.

I have made many good friends while on the board and also have been involved with genealogy and its many constituents. Brent Mai has become a very good friend and colleague whose advice I respect. We have had him speak at a number of our meetings in Hays, always informative and fun.

Many times after I return home from my board meetings my wife will ask me, “How many more years do you have left on the board”, my response has always been “One more year”. (Since my terms are only one year at a time I’m not telling a lie). How long will I serve, manage the website, and help as needed? Until it is time to step aside and let someone else do it.

Kevin Rupp

[krupp@rurltel.net](mailto:krupp@rurltel.net)
Village Databases

I recently contacted many of the Village Coordinators or database administrators for Bergseite villages (west of the Volga) to query how many individuals are listed in each of their village files. I thought this would be of great interest to our chapter members and others who subscribe to our newsletter. The thought was to gain a bit of insight into the relative village sizes and the possible availability of related records in Russian Archives. Most VC’s had either a Genealogy program (such as “Personal Ancestry File (LDS)”, “The Master Genealogist”, “Family TreeMaker”, “MyHeritage”, Legacy, etc., or used Microsoft Word to keep track of their entries. Some counted on the censuses alone as their “database”. It was fun contacting fellow Village Coordinators and seeing what they were doing relative to each other in this regard.

For more information on their village activities on a yearly basis, a listing of each reporting village back to 1999 can be found at: ahsgr.org/Villages/VCReports.htm.
Village coordinators can be found at: ahsgr.org/Villages/Village_Coordinator.htm.

I was not able to get information on several villages because they either had other non-Volga-German individuals also included in their count, or because the villages were so physically close that it made sense, due to inter-marriages, to have multiple villages represented by one database. Some totals are skewed because the VC has chosen not to record descendants in the USA beyond 1 generation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Entries</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>5,389</td>
<td>Paul Koehler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dobrinka</td>
<td>18,100</td>
<td>Gary Martens</td>
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<td>Dönhof</td>
<td>37,000</td>
<td>Karen Kaiser</td>
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<td>Dreisplitz</td>
<td>3,100</td>
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<td>Frank/Kolb</td>
<td>234,977</td>
<td>Kelly Koch</td>
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<td>Galka</td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>Gary Martens</td>
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<td>Grimm</td>
<td>28,411</td>
<td>Henry Schmick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huck</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>Pam Wurst</td>
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<td>Walter</td>
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<td>Mary Mills, Michael Fyler, Jean Roth</td>
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<td>Yagodnaya Polyana</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>Marlene Michel</td>
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SOAR (Save our Ancestral Records) - Update:

By Mike Meisinger
From his Messer / Neu Messer Village Newsletter

As you may know the SOAR Website hosted by CIC from Greeley, Colorado was shut down on February, 28, 2014. This was by a mutual agreement between CIC and the AHSGR and work is underway to make the records that were on SOAR available to our members. The biggest SOAR collection of records was our obituary database. An effort is underway to transfer those records to FamilySearch (LDS). FamilySearch has launched an indexing project and as of April 22nd, 2014, 97% of our records had been indexed and 65% had been verified. (FamilySearch uses a process where every obituary is indexed by two individuals. The results are then matched, or “verified” to make sure they are correct.) A very small sampling has been “published” on the FamilySearch website, and we hope the rest will be published by the end of the summer.

The link on the AHSGR home page that previously took you to the SOAR website, now takes you to a page called SOAR / Research your German Russian Ancestors. On that page are links to the obituary sample on FamilySearch as well as three other links.

Cemetery Records: On SOAR we had records for three cemeteries with a high concentration of Germans from Russia. We now have a link to “Find-a-grave” which has records for thousands of cemeteries and over a million graves.

Federal Land Records: On SOAR we had homestead records for one county in Oklahoma. These records included all of the documentation available relative to the homestead, (application, verification, and completion). We now have a link to the Bureau of Land Management which has records of all federal land transfers in the Western States. These records only include the completion documents for homesteads so we will be working on a future indexing project with FamilySearch to index our collection.

Passenger Lists: On SOAR we had passenger lists that had been collected over the years for many of our ancestors. We now have a link to the FamilySearch passenger lists which include many of our records plus others, such as the Hamburg departure lists. FamilySearch does not have our Galveston records so we will be working on a future indexing project with them to add these records.

Short “how to” documents are available to help you get started with the links above. We are also working on a project to make our old Journals, (pre-1999), and Work Papers available on our AHSGR web site. We hope to have that project completed soon. The AHSGR technology committee is also working to develop an AHSGR Members only website. Once that website is available we will be working to add more records for our members to view online.

The website address for accessing these records is:

https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2284875
2014 AHSGR 45th Annual Convention

Catherine's Manifesto:
The Great Adventure Continues

Lincoln, Nebraska
July 6 - 12, 2014

THE CORNHUSKER HOTEL
333 S 13th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-474-7474

http://ahsgr.org/Conventions/Convention_2014.htm

The 2014 Convention will be held in the Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S 13th Street. It is convenient to the downtown area and the Historical Haymarket District. Research opportunity at headquarters. The following program is being developed:

- Sessions on genealogy, history, culture, and folklore of the Germans from Russia.
- International speakers including those from Russia and South America.
- The Annual Story Telling Contest.
- Research opportunities using the full AHSGR library and archives at headquarters. A shuttle will be provided between the hotel and headquarters.
- Availability of books and other materials for purchase.
- Heritage Hall featuring village displays organized by Village Coordinators.
- Area group discussions with Village Coordinators and other sharing the similar interests in research.
- Updates on information available from the archives in Russia.
- Discussion of latest research on Germans from Russia.
- Youth Program.
- Local and regional tours including Sutton.
- Quilt raffle.
- Silent auction.
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

Volga-German Village Establishment in Russia, repeated hundreds of times under Catherine the Great.

The story of a Xerox picture, a book’s picture, and the rest of the picture.

In the last issue (March-April 2014) I displayed a Xerox copy of a page (left) from my miscellaneous records box depicting the arrival of additional colonists to a Volga-German village under construction. I had no idea from where this Xerox page originated, other than from my Aunt who was the previous Village Coordinator for Kautz. She found it somewhere.

A few days after Newsletter publication, I ran across a book in my library, “The Czar’s Germans” by Hattie Plum Williams. It displayed the part of the same scene on the cover and then wrapped around from the book’s spine to the back of the book (below).

I’m not sure of the source of the original, possibly a woodcut. Note: the colonist holding the hat (left) is flanked by two others on the right, but only by one on the book cover itself.

If anyone knows the source of this picture, please notify me at: dm48@comcast.net. Thanks!
Don’t Forget
Friday-Saturday, June 27-28, 2014 - at the German American Society
The Center for Volga German Studies is Sponsoring a Celebration of the
Anniversary of the Founding of Dobrinka - 1764

The 250th anniversary celebration of the founding of Dobrinka, the first Volga German Colony (June 29, 1764),
will be held at the German American Society in Portland, Oregon. The address is NE 57th and Sandy Blvd, Portland.
More information will be made public at the May and June chapter meetings. Registration is required.
Details: http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/events/2014Jun27.cfm

From Tanja Schell: Things you find when doing family history research: I came across a 1936 copy of a German-speaking
newspaper ("Stossbrigadler" posted on the website Wolgadeutsche.net) published where my family was from - the Frank Kanton
of the Republic of Volga Germans. The list contains names of over 50 women who each had a monetary "stipend" for having 7 kids and/or more. Among them, my great-grandmother Anna Schell
who received 2,000 rubles for her 8th child, a son born in 1935.

Sure enough, my grandfather confirmed his mother did indeed receive this money and even more when she had
her 9th baby - her last one who passed away before his 1st birthday. The money was used to make necessary
purchases for the household and also marry off the three older daughters of my great-grandparents. Other
recipients of 2,000 rubles hailed from villages such as Kratzke, Hussenbach, Dietel, Kolb, Neu-Messer, Frank,
Merkel, Seewald, Rothammel, and others.

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.
Good news from National Headquarters in Lincoln

The spring AHSGR Board of Directors meeting was held at AHSGR headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska April 3-5 2014. I represented the Oregon Chapter and was very impressed and surprised with the experience. **What a remarkable improvement in the entire work environment!**

Our new president, **Bob Wagner** (no relation) and his lovely wife **Marilyn** have dedicated most of the past year of their lives to the stabilization of National Headquarters. Specifically, we now enjoy new staff in key positions with fresh enthusiasm, energies, experience, focus, and work ethic.

A prime example is **Sheryl Loos Pawelko**, our new office manager. Sherry is proud to share her full German-from-Russia heritage (Loos from Norka) and grew up in the Lincoln German-Russian community. She boasts an impressive career in education and management. She is smart, quick, very high energy, and very knowledgeable regarding GR issues and heritage. She has been a board member of the Lincoln chapter. Sherry is a person you and every member should make a special effort to meet and get to know. You will love her. She is a very personable non-stop perpetual motion ball of fire, exuding dedication, passion, and focus for the AHSGR mission.

**Tom Ineck** is our new editorial and publications coordinator. Tom assumes the position previously held by our very own Gail Gingrich, who we all grew to love and appreciate very much. [Gail’s dedication, diligence, and consistency under fire and brimstone will be greatly missed.] Gail retired earlier this year and we wish her the very best in her new endeavors. Tom has had an impressive career in journalism and writing, and served many years as a reporter for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has a solid inherent grasp of the editorial and publication position and will be a positive force at our national office.

**Diane Wilson** is our new librarian in Lincoln. Diane boasts a Master of Library Science degree from Emporia University in Kansas and a Master of Museum Studies degree from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. She has had library and management experience and is moving to Lincoln from Kansas. Diane actually lived here in Portland during the 80’s and early 90’s and loved every minute of it - even the rain. She brings a strong enthusiasm and focus for her new responsibilities at national headquarters in Lincoln.

**Cindy Thomas** remains as our bookkeeper and **Yvonne Dahl** continues as office assistant.
Yulia Tsymbal is of course our longest serving national employee with over ten years as our dedicated Russian specialist and research assistant. We were very happy to host Yulia at our April meeting where many members enjoyed getting to know her better. Although Yulia appears to be 25-27 years of age, she is actually a grandmother with two lovely grown daughters and two grandsons. We hope to see more of Yulia in the years to come.

With these new and positive changes and additions, it is important that we all:

**Recognize and publicly acknowledge the personal dedication and professional commitment of our new president, Bob Wagner, and Marilyn Wagner, and their many colleagues who have made this marvelous transformation at Lincoln headquarters a reality.**

SPECIAL NOTE:
The Oregon Chapter is looking forward to hosting **President Bob Wagner** and his wife Marilyn at our May 17, 2014 chapter meeting. Please make every effort to attend and express your personal (and our collective) thanks for everything they have accomplished over the past year.

One sad note of much concern is the steady and consistent decline in our national membership, largely due to attrition. Recent reports indicate 2,700 members consisting of 1,000 life memberships and 1,700 regular memberships, this AFTER highly successful recent conventions at both Ft. Collins, Colorado (2013) and Portland, Oregon (2012). Board discussions included consideration for modified policies, procedures, and concepts to meet the challenges facing AHSGR in the 21st century.

Every member needs to remain engaged and involved. Let your national office know you care and are watching. Commitment, vigilance, and personal involvement are essential to our long term sustainability.

As a prime example, our Oregon Chapter has been blessed with a remarkable husband-wife team who step up to help and volunteer on a regular basis - **Mary & Roger (or Roger & Mary) Burbank.** They deserve a hearty shout and loud applause for providing lodging, private touring and quality hospitality for Yulia Tsymbal during her stay in Portland, dedicating an extended weekend of their time to make Yulia’s visit special. A **BIG THANK YOU to Roger and Mary Burbank.**

Never forget. *Unsere Leute,*

**Ed Wagner**
Board Member - Oregon Chapter AHSGR
AHSGR National Board Representative
(Past President - Oregon Chapter AHSGR)
Summer Picnic Tradition Returning

Members are reminded to reserve **Saturday, August 30** for the Oregon Chapter potluck picnic that will be held at beautiful Camp Emerald Forest, nestled among a Douglas Fir forest a few miles west of St. Helens, OR. Members of a few years ago will remember the happy family outings our Chapter previously enjoyed at Zane and Lela’s Miller Farm in Vancouver, WA. Because that location has been unavailable for a number of years we are all fortunate that chapter members, Florence Bauder and her family (son Eric, daughter Rita and Rita’s husband, Ray Biggs) have generously offered the use of their unique **Camp Emerald Forest**.

The facility consists of an impressive lodge with a large dining room, many bedrooms and a large kitchen, all designed to serve paying family or church groups that reserve time in this beautiful, rustic area for overnight retreats, or longer. In our case the Bauders offer use of the facilities at no cost. The lodge and an associated building for housing more guests were built by the family over the years using logs and sawed wood from their forest; appealing outdoor picnic areas, a near-by lake with boats, a volleyball court and other amenities invite participation. This facility offers an opportunity to have an all day outing with our Chapter friends as well as our children and grandchildren. Florence invites us to tour the facilities, enjoy tea, coffee or cider provided by the family, and use the lodge dining room for our potluck if we wish.

Camp Emerald Forest is about 15 miles west of St. Helens Oregon on very well maintained Pittsburg Road. Before the August 30 date those planning to attend will be given the opportunity to choose whether they will bring an entree, salad or dessert to the potluck lunch. Also, arrangements will be made for car-pooling in case some will need a ride.

It is clear that the chapter is fortunate to be offered a pleasant environment for an outing with family and friends at the end of summer.

The website clearly provides additional information.

[campemeraldforest.org/](http://campemeraldforest.org/)

**For more information, please contact:**
Bill Wiest - [wiest@reed.edu](mailto:wiest@reed.edu) 503 - 771 - 4321
or Steve Schreiber (during August) 503 - 774 - 9753
Surnames and their Meanings

Adler (eagle)
Bauder (room)
Bauer (farmer)
Baum (Tree)
Braun (brown)
Busch (bush)
Ehrlich (honest)
Feuerstein (flint)
Fischer (fisherman)
Fuchs (fox)
Giebelhaus (gabled house)
Glaser (glazier)
Glockenhammer (bell hammer)
Heimbuch (home book)
Henkel (handle)
HÖLZER (woods)
Jäger (hunter)
Jung (young)
Kammerzell (chamber cell)
Kindsvater (child's father)
Klein (small)
Kloster (monastery)
Knopf (button)
Koch (cook)
Krämer (grocer)
Krieger (warrior)
Krug (pitcher)
Kutscher (coachman)
Lauer (wait)
Lehr (teacher)
Mai (May)
Maurer (mason)
Metzger (butcher)
Ochsenhirt (Ox)
Osternmiller (Easter Miller)
Pfeifer (piper)
Pinnecker (tiller)
Räder (wheels)
Reiter (rider)
Richter (judge)
Ritter (knight)
Römer (Roman)
Sauer (sour)
Schäfer (shepherd)
Schlegel (drumstick)
Schmer (pain)
Schneider (cutter)
Schneidmiller (cutting miller)
Schnell (quickly)
Schreiber (scribe)
Schreiner (carpenter)
Schwan (swan)
Steinbrecher (quarryman)
Steinmetz (stonemason)
Strauch (shrub)
Töpfer (potter)
Trupp (troop)
Wacker (brave)
Weber (weaver)
Weiss (white)
Zentner (hundredweight)
Zitterkopf (shake head)

Websites suggested by Yulia Tsymbal:

www.rusdeutsch.ru/ (This is the official site of the German community of Russia with news, educational resources, projects, etc. The "History of the Germans of Russia" is an online version of a course book by German, Pleve, and Ilarionova. It has many pictures, maps, and links to original documents).
lists.memo.ru/ (Lists of victims of political terror in the USSR compiled by Human Rights Activists Society “Memorial”).
wwwii-photos-maps.com/19thcenturyrussianmaps/ (Nice maps of the XIX century Russian gubernias (provinces)).
stadtplandienst.de/home.asp (Maps of any built-up area in Germany)
sueterlinschrift.de/Englisch/Sutterlin.htm (Help with reading Sutterlin – one of the Old German scripts).
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.
# May 2014

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# June 2014

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AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER
P.O. Box 55218
Portland, Oregon 97238-5218

Address
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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:
facebook.com/groups/AHSGR.Oregon/

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ahsgoregon.com