



AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter

Chronicle Unserer Leute

Volume 36, Issue 6

November/December 2015



Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, November 7- 10 am

Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

Saturday, November 21- 2 pm

Oregon Chapter Program

Dr. Hans Boas

Saturday, December 5 - 10 am

Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

Saturday, December 12 - 2 pm - 4 pm

Oregon Chapter Christmas Program

St. Michael's Lutheran Church



Catherine II, the Great

Empress of Russia

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

oregonahsgr.org

November Program

On November 21st at 2 pm, Professor Hans Boas, from the University of Texas will discuss his work studying Texas German dialects. Many Germans who migrated to Texas came from the same areas in Germany where our ancestors lived before their migration to Russia. This will be a very interesting and fun presentation, so please plan to join us.



Professor Boas would like to interview German Russian dialect speakers when he's in Portland. Please contact Steve Schreiber at 503-774-9753 if you are interested in participating.



Pelznickel

Christmas Program

The Oregon Chapter's traditional Christmas program will be held at St. Michael's Lutheran Church (across the street from the Concordia library) on December 12 at 2 pm. The program will feature live holiday music and appearances from the Christkind and **Pelznickel**. Light snacks and beverages will be served. Please invite your friends and family. Everyone is welcome! Remember, the Pelznickel **will not** harm anyone who has submitted their 2016 chapter dues or thought about doing so. 😊

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November/December President's Message

Steve Schreiber

Fall has arrived and we continue to enjoy unseasonably warm and sunny weather here in Oregon. It's hard to believe that the holidays are right around the corner.

I want to thank the Bauder family for hosting our Oregon Chapter summer picnic again this year at Camp Emerald Forest. We very much appreciate their hospitality and generosity!

We were fortunate to have David Karber join us for our September program. David is the Co-President and Treasurer of the Southern California Chapter of AHSGR. David made a presentation titled "**Digging to Find the Roots of My Family Tree: How I Discovered My Mother's Paternal Ancestry**" which was very well received by those who attended.

Brent Mai, Director of the Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) provided an update at our October program on the activities and plans for the CVGS over the next year and a report on his recent visit to Russia. We had a very good turnout and appreciate all the great work that Brent and the CVGS continue to do.

At our October meeting, we also held our annual elections. The following people will serve as Officers and Directors in 2016:

Steve Schreiber, President (term ends 2017)
Bob Thorn, 1st Vice President (term ends 2016)
Michael Frank, 2nd Vice President and Newsletter Editor (term ends 2016)
Jim Holstein, Treasurer (term ends 2017)
Mary Burbank, Secretary (term ends 2017)
Roger Burbank, Director (term ends 2017)
Herb Femling, Director (term ends 2016)
Harold Kammerzell, Director (term ends 2017)
Ed Wagner, Director (term ends 2017)
Lee Ann Schlager, Director (term ends 2017)
Thelma Wiest, Director (term ends 2016)

I greatly appreciate the work that all of our board members do to bring you great programs, maintain our treasury, create our newsletter and assist with many tasks that keep our chapter healthy and active. Much of the work is behind the scenes, but it's all important.

I'd like to give special recognition to Bill Wiest who has served on the board for many years and elected not to continue for another term. Bill has been a great contributor and his direct involvement will be greatly missed. Happily, Bill will continue to attend our board meetings along with his wife, Thelma, who continues as a Director. That's fortunate for us!



We are also fortunate to have Lee Ann Schlager join us as a Director in 2016. Lee Ann's many talents will be of great benefit in the year's ahead.

We're always looking for your feedback to help us bring you interesting programs that fit into your calendar. Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey that will help us plan for 2016 and beyond.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/CBXTG86

You can also find a link to the survey on our website and Facebook page. If you don't have easy access to a computer, just give me a call and I can take your input directly.

Please mark your calendars for two great programs coming up in November and December.

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Professor Boas would like to interview German Russian dialect speakers when he's in Portland. Please contact me 503-774-9753 if you are interested in participating.

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If you have children or grandchildren who would enjoy playing a non-speaking part in the program, please contact Loretta Kammerzell at 360-722-2571.

I want to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas season. We hope to see you soon!

Steve Schreiber

President, Oregon Chapter

Hans C. Boas (from his Bio - Hans will be our speaker November 21st)

Hans is a professor for Germanic Linguistics in the Department of Germanic Studies and the Dept. of Linguistics at the University of Texas at Austin. Before coming to Austin, he was a postdoctoral researcher with the FrameNet project at the International Computer Science Institute and a research fellow in the Department of Linguistics at the University of California at Berkeley, funded by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst ('German Academic Exchange Service'). Prior to that, he studied law and linguistics at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany. He received both his M.A. (thesis: The Passive in German) and his Ph.D. (dissertation: Resultative Constructions in English and German) in the Linguistics Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Walla Walla's Germantown

A settlement of Germans from Russia

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

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

The center of Germantown was between Third Avenue on the east, Chase Avenue on the west, Chestnut on the north, and Willard on the south. Outside of this neighborhood lived many more Germans from Russia, particularly in southwest Walla Walla homes in the area from Second all the way to the railroad tracks at Thirteenth Avenue, including Chestnut, Willow, Emma, Sprague, Military, Birch, Poplar, and Alder.

These immigrants built their own homes, along with corner grocery stores and churches. Their children attended local schools, and were also required to attend Sabbath school on Saturdays in their churches.

German-Language Churches

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

Employment

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



Several members of the community were fortunate enough to eventually open their own businesses. These included Johann Conrad Frank who in 1928 opened the Conrad Frank Construction Company, and trained each of his sons to carry on his tradition of fine carpentry. The same year, John David Frank established a grocery store and meat market on South Fourth Avenue in competition with a grocery on Maple Street opened in about 1915 by the Hill family.

A 1937 map of the center of Germantown is shown below with the name of each family next to their home. Maps of other neighborhoods of Germans from Russia in Walla Walla are available at www.ww2020.net/historic-sites/germantown.

Most Germantown students attended Lincoln School, which was first called Paine School when it was constructed in 1883. Many also attended Jefferson School after its construction in 1916, and then went to Garrison School after it was built in 1955, before attending high school. Paine School, rename Lincoln School in 1902, was renamed Paine again in 1927 when a new building was erected. It has recently been changed back to Lincoln School in honor of President Abraham Lincoln. In 1862 President Lincoln approved two laws that were instrumental in attracting Germans from Russia to Eastern Washington and ultimately to this neighborhood. The first was the Homestead Act; the second was the Pacific Railroad Act, which allotted land and funding for the completion of a transcontinental railroad offering prospects of employment both to Germans from Russia and to many other immigrants.

Sign placed in 2015 by Walla Walla 2020 Historic Research & Plaque Project. More information on Walla Walla's Germantown and other historic sites in the area is available at www.ww2020.net/historic-sites.



The walking tour of Walla Walla's Russaecke was quite refreshing. Seeing many of the original houses and businesses along the way brought back many memories of my life in the town. I was accompanied at times by three Schreinners who were cousins who were related by marriage to our Frank families. On more than one occasion, residents and motorists were startled to see such a large group of people walking along the sidewalks and streets, stopping at times to explain the structures being witnessed. One business, John David Frank's Grocery at 706 S. 4th, looks as good today as it must have in 1928 when it first opened. The Hill and Frank grocery stores maintained a healthy business competition for many years. The Hills were related to Jean Roth (Walter, Russia) who helped get this Russaecke project off the ground. Another Volga-German surname in Walla Walla, **GRADWOHL**, related to Kautz, Russia, is literally etched in stone, preserved as impressions in many sidewalks in Russaecke.

My cousin, Larry Frank, and I gave presentations about Germany, Russia, and our family's relationship to those countries and to Walla Walla. My cousins, Jim, Julie, and Karla Davison (Elaine Frank Davison's children) were present to lend support to the Germantown presentations. Karla filmed all the presentations. My thanks to all who gave presentations, and devoted time and effort to making this event a success, including Dan Clark (www.ww2020.net).



House built in 1910 by Johann Conrad Frank (your newsletter editor's grandfather) at 815 S. 3rd in Walla Walla. A summer kitchen was built first while the house was under construction. Looking good to this day!

Friday, October 23, 2015

- Introductory talk on Germans from Russia who settled in southwest Walla Walla from 1882-1920.
- Dedication of Germantown Interpretive Sign at Garrison Creek Bridge.
- Walking Tour of the Germantown Neighborhood.

Saturday (October 24):

- WELCOME and Introduction of Speakers and Guests.
- Catherine the Great's Call to the Germans - **Dr. Richard D. Scheuerman**, Professor at Seattle Pacific University and noted author.
- Stories of the Germans from Russia in Walla Walla's Russaecke - **Jean A. Roth** - President, Greater Seattle Chapter of AHSGR and Director of Education for the Seattle Genealogical Society and Library.
- Family History Resources for the Germans from Russia - **Dr. Brent Mai**, Director of Concordia University's CVGS (Center for Volga Germans Studies).
- **Sue Schessler Ramey** - Director of Mount Vernon LDS Family History Center. Family Search: Obituaries of the Germans from Russia and the website "Findagrave.com".
- From Germany to Russia and then to Walla Walla: One family's Journey - **Michael Frank** of the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR and **Larry Frank** of Walla Walla's Blue Mountain Chapter.

Karl Stumpp

Geographer, naturalist, scientist, and historian.

by Jorgelina Fischer (edited from a Spanish-translated Germans from Russia Facebook post September 25, 2015)

Karl Stumpp was born In 1899, Alexanderhilf, Odessa, Ukraine. He died in 1982, Stuttgart, Germany.

Stumpp was a historian who experienced great appreciation for his countrymen, the federal government and international public opinion in the east and west. In the field of historical research in the Federal Republic of Germany, his name is unjustly seen negatively today, because the beginning of their educational mission was during the period of National Socialism.

The work of his life, "Die Auswanderung Aus Deutschland nach Russland in den Jahren 1763 BIS 1862" (the emigration of Germany to Russia in the years 1763 to 1862), was dedicated to the members of his family and all the other Germans from Russia that survived the deportation in Siberia and Central Asia, was recognized as a norm of work in the historical and has also earned the respect in the post-modern historiography.

The book is especially popular among resettlers and spätaussiedler (repatriated to Germany) those who seek the genealogy and investigation of the family. For them, the work of Stumpp is a real source from which all groups of Germans in the Black Sea, the Volga Germans and those of other areas of settlement can extract information.

Who was this man?

Karl Stumpp was born into a family of German farmers on 12 May 1896, in Alexanderhilf next to Odessa. Little has been transmitted from his childhood and of his youth. A report is that he went to Germany in 1918 with other young fellows for volunteering to serve in the army. This does not happen, because shortly after his arrival all collapsed in Germany with the revolution of November.

Karl Stumpp studied geography and natural history in Tübingen, with 15 other Germans in the Black Sea, and earned his master's degree and PhD in 1922 with his dissertation titled "Die Deutschen Kolonien am schwarzen meer" (the German colonies in the Black Sea). From 1922 until 1933, Stumpp worked as a professor at the school for girls in Tarutino, Bessarabia. He led several groups of young people and two choruses from there, he was involved in the research on the family, gave lectures on Germans in Russia, and participated in various other activities.

Due to his refusal to accept Romanian citizenship, he was deported and returned to Germany. In Stuttgart, Stumpp took over the leadership of the SOA, gave more than 400 conferences on the history of the Germans from Russia, and drew up maps of the areas of settlement of the Germans from Russia (37 are preserved). He wrote several articles for the periodical "Deutsche Post Aus dem osten" (German post from the east), and participated in the first assembly of the Germans from Russia in 1939.

After the war, he also wrote his greatest work, "die Auswanderung" (the Emigration), on the basis of these documents located in Dnjepropetrovsk (Ukraine).



Towards the end of the war Karl Stumpp moved with his family, protecting from the bombing, to Tübingen and received a post of professor at the Institute of Secondary Uhland. Along with Heinrich Roemmich, was active in the establishment of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft der ostumsiedler", published "Volk auf dem weg" between 1951 and 1963, and after the "Landsmannschaft" was established, published 12 "Heimatbücher" from 1955 until 1966.

He held various positions in the "Landsmannschaft": Head of cultural affairs (1957-1968), National Chairman (1963-1968) and Speaker (1968-1975).

Between 1951 and 1975, Stumpp gave more than 300 speeches on the fate of the Germans from Russia during the deportation. Between 1971 and 1978, gave 19 speeches and there he was appointed chairman emeritus of the museum of the Germans from Russia in Rugby, North Dakota. He rescued current information about the circumstances of his countrymen of numerous private letters, who edited and provided in reports for the federal government and the public.

His life of work finally culminated in the process of family reunification and the subsequent massive emigration of his fellow countrymen.

Stumpp is not distinguished by his ambitions or the pursuit of financial advantages, but through human compassion for his fellow citizens disadvantaged groups, including his mother and her sisters. He received numerous awards and honors for his achievements, among these the order of merit of first class.

When he died on 20 October 1982, in Stuttgart, his name had already been turned into a legend. Such is the case, that we will see the name of Karl Stumpp in many writings and widespread maps, which he described the Volga German colonies. (*Your newsletter editor used Stumpp's map of the Volga-German villages extensively in plotting concise coordinates of the Volga villages using Google Earth*).

LeRoy and Pictet (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

LeRoy and Pictet was a co-operative company which recruited Germans to settle in Russia in the 18th century, under commission by Tsarina Catherine the Great.

The company was formed by le Roy, a Frenchman, Pictet, a Swiss from Geneva, and Sonntag, a German. There were two other corporations active in the field of recruiting settlers to Russia, one formed by the Frenchman Baron Caneu de Beauregard with Major Otto Friedrich of Monjou and the other, with no independent funding, by Jean de Boffe, Meusnier de Precour, and Quentin Benjamin Coulhette d'Hautervive.

To settlers wearied by wars and economic crises, Catherine promised freedom of religion, exemptions from taxes and military service, and the right to dispose of their land as they wished. Thousands of German craftsmen and farmers responded to these recruitment efforts and founded 103 German villages on both sides of the Volga; they are thus known as the Volga Germans. Le Roy and Pictet established 25 colonies comprising 1,530 families with 5,339 people, along the Volga south of Saratov and to the east on its left tributaries the Karaman and Tarlyk, for example the colony of Lauwe, now Yablonovka, founded as a Lutheran colony on 19 August 1767. Le Roy and Pictet later became managers of the colonies.

Church Record Accuracy

by D. Michael Frank

As AHSGR village coordinator for the village of Kautz, I have had the opportunity to transcribe a large number of church records from that village, that of Kraft, and also the village of Dietel. What became apparent very quickly, people recorded in those birth, marriage, and death documents were not always recorded with uniformity. Pastors over the years changed, their handwriting changed, their health changed, their requirement to document records in handwriting other than German changed. Additionally, the pastors were typically responsible for more than one village on their circuit. Established residents weren't necessarily known well to the traveling pastors.

In the United States, it was common to refer to a child as Johnnie, when his name was really John. Sophie when her real name was Sophia. Billy, when his name was really William, Wilhelm, or Bill. Such variations of German names were also found in the V-G villages of Russia.

For this and other reasons, the same person might have records with four or five variations in spelling of their name in different records during the course of their life. This was not unusual. One example: Margaretha, Margareth, Margarethe, or Marg. Many times first and middle names were abbreviated to save space. Umlauts were sometimes present in surnames, sometimes not. Establishing a genealogical database from records so variably entered would prove to be a data recording nightmare without uniformity. Not only the name of the child varied, but sometimes also one or both of the names of the parents varied slightly. This made it very hard to build a database of family structures from the records, tying a particular person to a particular family or birth, a particular marriage, and/or a particular death.

For that reason, I found it necessary to standardize the spelling of some of the individual names. In the case of Catharina (Catherine, Catherina, Catharine, Katharina, Katharine, Kath., Cath.), a person studying the family could be certain they were referencing the correct individual. Photocopies of each handwritten record are maintained (record type, year, and record #) so a researcher or family descendant can see the original handwritten record. For me, any variation of the name Catharina will still hold an equivalence to any other variation. When working with other researchers, many times they will have a variation of the first names of an individual, different from mine. I still know the equivalence so it translates automatically for me. The question becomes: when you encounter perhaps up to 5 variations of the handwritten name for exactly the same individual, which is correct, which one do you use? The answer is or should be: THE MOST COMMON. Unfortunately, databases for research don't take kindly to these ambiguities, so the standardization, in my experience, is warranted.

For birth records where the birth date was recorded and death records where the birth date could be calculated from the death date and age at death, differences in spelling of names stood out like sore thumbs. But you could tie the records of one person together by this data and the names of his/her parents.

It didn't help also when Kautz villagers moved to the USA and Americanized their first names and surnames. Fuchs became Fox, Reuter became Reiter, Johann became John, etc. For those who immigrated, their names may be spelled one way in the Volga-German church records, and Americanized for U.S. death records. Looking at one family group sheet, you'll sometimes see half the children in a family (those who died in Russia) with the German surname. Siblings born in the USA might have the Americanized surname.

Many records were created phonetically from the spoken words of the participants of the record. This created a bit of confusion generations later when genealogists with a need to know are having to make sense of the ambiguities.

I've found many cases where Catharina was spelled CATHARINA for decades. Then a new pastor comes in and consistently spells the name CATHARINE. Then the name reverts back to CATHARINA with the next pastor. This is a classic case for standardization.

So, to understand the problems with record transcription, please have compassion on those who have to translate and transcribe these records. It is a long, hard, tedious, and demanding job, but the eventual results in determining family structures are well worth it.

NOTE: Lutheran records starting about 1892 were mandated to be written in Cyrillic. Many times the German equivalent was written alongside the Cyrillic version. Sometimes, Cyrillic was the only handwriting used. The Cyrillic alphabet does not correspond letter for letter with the English alphabet, adding to the complexity of translation. Depending upon the pastor, certain Cyrillic letters can be written differently at times.

Other examples of variations: Philip/Phillip/Philipp, Christine/Christina, Marie/Maria, Elisabeth/Elizabeth, Margaretha/Margarethe/Margareth/Marg., Amalie/Amalia, Sophie/Sophia, Jacob/Jakob, Konrad/Conrad, Stahle/Stahly/Stahley/ Stahlÿ, Riehl/Riel.

Happy Thanksgiving

Merry Christmas

HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Center for Volga-German Studies (CVGS)

<http://www.cvgs.cu-portland.edu>

CVGS: For current & Upcoming CVGS Exhibits and Events, check out http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/exhibits_events.cfm



The Oregon Chapter of the
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

<http://www.oregonahsgr.org/>

International: <http://AHSGR.ORG>



SPOTLIGHT by Thelma Wiest

Have you ever heard the name “Shirley Rose Morgan Hurrell?” Do you know who she is? (hint—she is not a Volga German!) So, you may ask, why is she in the SPOTLIGHT? The answer is that she is an important and integral part of our local chapter and in many ways keeps things running for us. Shirley became a member many years ago along with her late husband, John “Jack” Lewis Hurrell whose family has Volga-German ancestry.

Shirley’s ancestry is French Canadian and Irish and before we talk about Jack’s Volga German ancestry we’ll concentrate on Shirley’s story. She was born on 25 July, 1935 in Longview, Washington, Cowlitz County, to Mary Rose Laurine and Lyndon John Oscar Morgan. Her mother was born in Cadott, Wisconsin and her father in Athabasca, Alberta, Canada. Shirley and her family moved to Portland, Oregon from Longview when she was about three years old.

Shirley attended pre-school off Lombard Avenue in North Portland. In first through fifth grade her school was at 1210 N. Mason (which is now in the middle of I-5.) From sixth through eighth grade her father owned a grocery store and dry-cleaners on 112th and Division in southeast Portland. Their “house” was connected to the back of the building. From her freshman year in high school until she got married she lived with her family on 83rd Avenue, 54th Avenue, and Lincoln Street in southeast Portland.

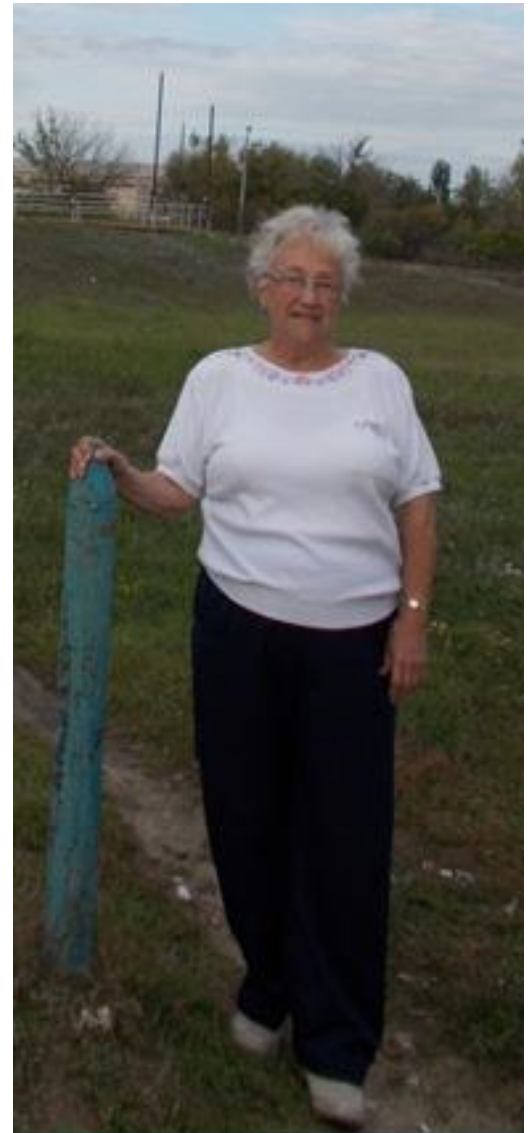
Shirley married Jack Hurrell in Portland, Oregon on November 20, 1954. He passed away in July of 2007. Most of us in the chapter remember Jack fondly and miss him to this day.

What Shirley likes about AHSGR is family history. She says that even though her heritage is not Volga-German she is still accepted as a “family member.” (We love you, Shirley!) She loves to assist others in researching their families. This has led to volunteering at the CVGS in the capacity of assisting members with research. She and Jene Goldhammer are creating a database online listing families from books beginning with passenger lists from Germany to Russia and then progressing through the various censuses in books that are available at CVGS. They attempt with each new book to go back to check if they were in the previous documents, Also they check to see if any other people in their families were born in Russia and if they moved to another village. It creates a story of the families. Shirley says it’s amazing how many members of a family, including parents and/or young children there were who died between one census and another. There must have been lots of illness and death among those immigrant families.

Jack and Shirley had two girls. Their oldest daughter was born with disabilities and after living in group homes in Washington County for many years, passed away in 2011. She was a delight to the family.

Their younger daughter, Debbie Wenker, was married and retired a few years ago from Verizon after being in management for many years. She has had various jobs since that time. Debbie just turned 58 and she and Shirley are very close. She lives just a few miles from Shirley.

Shirley has two grandchildren, Nolan Lewis Wenker, 34 years old who with wife Alexis have two children and Alison Wenker Orton, 31 years old. Alison and her husband Christopher also have two children which gives Shirley four great-grandchildren.



After high school Shirley graduated from a business college in Portland in 1954 and was an administrative assistant with International Harvester from 1959 to 1980. She then went to work for a company (Ateq Corporation) that had been started by five Intel gentlemen. Now that she's "retired" she enjoys gardening, quilting and volunteering in the field of family research. She attends St. Elisabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Aloha. She is a member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon as well as AHSGR. Weekly, she volunteers at the Family History Center in Aloha that is organized by the LDS church and also at the Center for Volga German studies at Concordia University Library. She is on an active committee at Edwards Center, Inc., an organization which sets up and runs group homes and "sheltered" workshops for the disabled. As a member of this team, she is responsible for a group home, assisting the staff in their needs and as a "sounding board" for the five residents. In a monthly meeting everyone gives reports and information on any needs for their location.

Shirley lives on a relatively short street in Aloha, with about 20 houses on it. The one thing that the street has is lots of children. She is known as Grandma Shirley—or—Grandma Cookie. She bakes and goes through about 14 dozen cookies a week, plus brownies for all her "kids." Shirley has a cat and every time he hears the doorbell ring, he heads for under the bed—he's afraid of kids!

As the kids in the neighborhood get older, they like to "crash" in her kitchen and have conversations with her about their life and what is going on—at times asking for advice.

Before we go on to Jack's Volga German ancestry I want to add that we all admire and appreciate everything you do, Shirley. Would that we all had the energy and intelligence to accomplish what you do every day of your life. Thank you!

One of Jack Hurrell's earliest known ancestors was Anna Elisabeth Rothenberger, his great grandmother. She was born in Germany in 1852, married a Rommel in the Darmstadt area, and from there they went to Hussenbach, Russia. Hussenbach is the Volga German village from where Jack's ancestors immigrated. Anna Rothenberger Rommel's daughter was Katherina Elisabeth Rommel and when Katherina was 4 years old her mother died in Russia. At age 14, in 1902, Katherina, along with her father, Johann Jacob Rommel and two sisters arrived in Ritzville, Washington. Another married sister remained in Russia for several more years before immigrating with her family to the U.S. The Rommel family was sponsored by the DeWald family of the Ritzville area. It was there that Katherina, Jack's grandmother, met and married a Norwegian man, Helmer Kittelson. Katherine and her husband Helmer moved to Cunningham, Washington. They had a daughter, Iola Christine Kittelson, who was born 18 September, 1910 in Cunningham. Iola, Jack's mother, married John Hurrell, Sr., who was born in Escanaba, Michigan. From Cunningham, Washington they moved to Hauser Lake, Idaho where Jack was born 15 June, 1930. In the early 1950's Jack's parents moved to Portland, Oregon where his father had a new job running a lumber mill in Lee's Camp. Jack himself came to Portland in 1953 after he returned from the army during the Korean War. Then in 1954 he and Shirley married. They had more than 50 years of a happy marriage.

If you want to see Shirley in person, just come to an AHSGR meeting at the Center for Volga German Studies, Concordia University Library, and she will be sitting at the table collecting contributions and making sure you sign in. Her bright smiling face will make your day!



Newsletter Mailing Costs

The chapter **incurs considerable costs** in providing paper copies of this newsletter to chapter members. If at all possible, and you are able to view the newsletters electronically, please let the newsletter editor know (Michael Frank, dm48@comcast.net, 360/601-7361), and we'll save some trees and \$\$\$ in the process. Be aware that the electronic copies are in color, whereas the mailed copies are in black-and-white. Electronic versions are distributed many days before the paper copies. Also, you are able to increase the viewing size of the electronic version using the free software Adobe Reader. If you have a computer and printer, you can always print your own archival copy in color or black and white. Copies of past newsletters are also available for viewing or printing at the chapter website, <http://www.oregonahsgr.org/>.

!!! Making A Donation !!!

We are fortunate to have many individuals who have shown their commitment by making a donation to the **Oregon Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR)**, allowing us to further our mission of collecting, preserving, and presenting the history of Germans from Russia in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Please consider supporting us through a financial contribution. The Oregon Chapter of AHSGR is a private, tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Federal tax ID number 93-1313164). Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

To donate, please send your check (payable to Oregon Chapter AHSGR) to:

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

Please contact Jim by email (jimholstein@gmail.com) or at (503) 367-1757 if you have any questions. Your support is greatly appreciated!

New Chapter Members for 2015

Donna & Steve Tetrault, Ridgefield (Norka, Walter)

Deborah Burbank, Vancouver (Norka)

Greg Corbolotti, Tigard (Kulm, Bessarabia)

Mick Hergert, Wilsonville (Norka, Brunenthal)

Gerry Ahlstrom, Lake Havasu City (Norka)

Lowell Ford, Salem

Rose Schultz, The Dalles

Michael Amen, Damascus, Oregon (Frank, Norka)

Robert Eckhardt, Woodburn (Manweiler)

Bruce Harder, Portland

Tony & Tonya Veches, Boise (Frank, Dietel, Kautz)





A photograph from summer, 1993 when Bill and Thelma Wiest were met by Professor Igor Pleve at the edge of the Volga River in Saratov. After a brief review of items in his briefcase the Wiest's were taken to his home to lay out the rather surprising amount of data he had found about the Buxman family that first settled in Müller and later in Wiesenmüller? At that time he was also able to give the village of origin in Germany of the Buxmann first settlers.

Hilda Weber

I am sorry to report the passing of Hilda Weber, Village Coordinator for Erlenbach. Hilda was a great lady and a fine Village Coordinator. She will be missed.

Please let me know if you know of someone who might want to replace her as VC for Erlenbach.

Regards, Mike Meisinger

mrm1970@aol.com

AHSGR Village Coordinator Liaison



AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Form

Membership fees are for one 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 (preferable). 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:

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

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

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

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

Questions? Contact Jim Holstein at oregonahsgr@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

November 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	4	5	6	7 Chapter Board Meeting 10 am
8	9	10 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	18	19	20	21 Chapter Program - Dr. Hans Boas 2 pm
22	23	24 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

December 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	2	3	4	5 Chapter Board Meeting 10 am
6	7	8 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	9	10	11	12 Oregon Chapter Christmas Program 2 pm
13	14	15 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	23	24	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	30	31 New Years Eve		

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

Address

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City

State, Zip



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

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/

Oregon Chapter Website
oregonahsgr.org

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Roger Burbank

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Harold Kammerzell

Ed Wagner

Bill Wiest

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