Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, September 12 - 10 am
Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

Saturday, September 19 - Noon—3 pm
Oregon Chapter Program
Dr. David Karber - Finding Roots
Potluck Lunch

Saturday, October 3 - 10 am
Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

Sunday, October 18 - 2 pm - 4:00 pm
Oregon Chapter Program
Dr. Brent Mai - CVGS Schedule

David Karber
will join us to make a presentation titled
“Digging to Find the Roots of My Family Tree: How I Discovered My Mother’s Paternal Ancestry.”

Over the years, David knew little about his family’s ancestral heritage. In fact, his mother had no knowledge about where her father was born. Over the past 15 years, David and his wife, Elaine, have developed keen interests in their families’ heritage and have visited ancestral sites in Russia, Ukraine, and Prussia (Poland).

They both are active in the Southern California Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia and the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (a joint chapter) where he is presently serving as Co-President and Treasurer. The Karbers reside in Long Beach, California.

The program will be held at the Center for Volga German Studies in the Concordia University Library (3rd floor). We’ll begin with a potluck lunch at noon and the program will begin around 1 p.m.

Brent Mai, Director of The Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) will provide us with an update on the activities and plans for the CVGS over the next year.

The program will be held at The Center for Volga German Studies in the Concordia University Library (3rd floor). The program will begin at 2 p.m.

Dr. David Karber

Dr. Brent Mai

Catherine II, the Great
Empress of Russia

AHSGR Oregon Chapter
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oregonahsgr.org

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President's Message - Steve Schreiber

The summer season is racing by and I hope that you have all enjoyed the very warm and dry weather we've experienced this year.

Like many of you, I've had a chance to travel this summer and was fortunate to attend the AHSGR Convention in Billings, Montana. The headquarters staff and Yellowstone Chapter deserve a great deal of credit for an excellent program. One of the many highlights of the convention was the premiere of the Prairie Public Broadcasting documentary titled "We (Never) Don't Forget Germans from Russia in South America" which examines the history, language, music, religion, foodways, and culture of this ethnic group and chronicles how these traditions are flourishing across generations. Michael Miller from North Dakota State University and Bob Dambach from Prairie Public Broadcasting deserve a huge amount of praise for spearheading this effort. The Oregon Chapter's very own Brent Mai is featured in this excellent video which you will want to see. A DVD of the documentary can be purchased on the AHSGR website (ahsgr.org).

At the Billings Convention, the Oregon Chapter Newsletter was selected for recognition as one of four of the most outstanding chapter newsletters in the USA and Canada. Many kudos go to our newsletter editor, Michael Frank.

I also had the privilege to attend the Hergert family reunion at the Canby Christian Center a few weeks ago. Mick Hergert led the effort to save the bell from the former St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church on NE 8th and Failing before it was demolished a few months ago. Mick's grandfather, Rev. Elias Hergert, was the pastor of this church for many years. Elias Hergert's brother, Jacob, founded the church in 1904. The bell has been restored and was rededicated at the picnic, with each branch of the Hergert family taking turns ringing it. We hope it will continue to ring and serve the center for many years to come!

Also rescued from the former St. Paul's church was a beautiful mural painted by well known Northwest artist Colista Dowling. The Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) is leading the effort to have the painting professionally restored. When the restoration is complete, the painting will be displayed in the Concordia University Library. Many thanks to Brent Mai and Valerie Miller for their good efforts. Please consider helping with the restoration of the mural (estimated at $12,000). To donate, please send a check directly to:

CVGS - Concordia University
2811 NE Holman St.
Portland, OR 97211

I would like to thank the Bauder family for again hosting the Oregon Chapter picnic in August at their Camp Emerald Forest. We appreciate their wonderful generosity. I'd also like to give a shout out for Thelma Wiest and Carolyn Penner who helped to organize this year's event. Thank you both!

We have some great programs coming up this fall. On September 19th, David Karber will join us to make a presentation titled "Digging to Find the Roots of My Family Tree: How I Discovered My Mother’s Paternal Ancestry." David is an officer in the Southern California Chapter of AHSGR. This program will be held at the CVGS and will start with a potluck lunch at noon. The program will begin about 1:00 pm.

Brent Mai will provide us with an update on what is happening with the CVGS at our October 18th program which begins at 2:00 pm in the CVGS. There are many good things happening with the CVGS and you'll want to be there to hear about them directly from Brent!

Our annual elections will be held at the October meeting. If you have an interest in serving on the Oregon Chapter board, please contact me or any of our Directors. It's very satisfying to work with such a great group of people. The time requirements are relatively small and the personal rewards are well worth it.

Since retailers are now having "Christmas in July" sales, I guess it's not too early to look ahead to the holidays. We're planning another great Christmas program in December. Watch the newsletter for more details as we get closer.

I hope that you will all enjoy the waning days of summer. Personally, I'm ready for some cool and clear fall weather. See you at the September program!

Steve Schreiber
Oregon Chapter President
Brent Mai Visits the Land of the Volga Germans
by Kevin Rupp (Sunflower Chapter Newsletter Editor - Kansas)

While the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, AHSGR, hosted the 46th Annual International Convention in Billings, Montana, Ellis and Russell Counties hosted a weekend long event to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Husaren and Kamenka, Russia.

Brent Mai, Director of the Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS), Valerie Miller, CVGS volunteer coordinator, from Portland, Oregon and Volga-German researcher, Fabian Zubia Schulteis, from Buenos Aires, Argentina arrived in Hays on Thursday, July 16 to tour the six Volga-German colonies of Rush and Ellis County. We all were able to spend the day touring the villages and each cemetery that was attached to each village. This was the first time that Valerie and Fabian had seen the villages. They were very impressed by the churches and the culture that was still present in each village.

Friday, Brent, Fabian, and Valerie proceeded to visit the outlying towns including Walker and those near the Russell area. That evening they arrived back in Hays for a homemade Ellis County Volga German meal. This was followed by an evening discussing research.

Saturday started early in Russell, Kansas with a Mai family reunion and a history lesson on the Volga-Germans, specifically those from the village of Holstein. The evening wrapped up with a traditional “Hochzeit” with Gerry & Terry Batt and company providing live music for the dance.

Sunday was time to move the celebration over to Hays where close to 50 people participated in an afternoon of informative discussion on the village of Husaren & Kamenka. But first, we all had a delicious traditional Volga-German meal prepared by Pam Burgardt.

Following the meal, Brent began his presentation on the villages with the history of their founding. Many of the people who came from Kamenka settled in Topeka, Kansas with others settling in Ellis County, in particular, Pfeifer, Kansas. Topics discussed during the day were: Introduction of the Volga-Germans, the 1941 Deportation of our people, and settlement on the Kansas prairie.

Fabian’s presentation was devoted to the Volga Germans of Argentina and Brazil.

Each presentation lasted approximately 40 minutes and included photos and a discussion session.

Behind the Scenes:

I don’t think there are enough words to express the thanks I give to those who contribute their time, energy and talents towards helping make this Oregon Chapter newsletter a success. I report about chapter events, but there is real flesh and blood behind the scenes to make those events a success. I have a chapter President, Steve Schreiber, who is proactive in supplying me with timely and informative ‘President’s Messages’. A monthly feature, ‘Spotlight’ has been a hit, requiring the tenacity of Thelma Wiest to write biographies of individuals selected from our chapter membership. Many chapter members over the years have submitted ideas and articles which were of great interest to our audiences.

The efforts of the chapter officers and Board of Directors in developing and executing ideas for monthly presentations years in advance are to be applauded. Additionally, but not the least important, without the proofreading efforts of those who receive a preview copy of the newsletter, Jim Holstein in particular, this newsletter would look more like it came from a shabby DOS computer from a third world country. I am the technician who ‘makes the sausage’. All others add the flavor and Panache. I applaud you all!

~Michael Frank
AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter Editor
Concordia University’s Center for Volga German Studies Saves a Piece of Northeast Portland History Portland, Oregon – SAVED

The Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) at Concordia University is the proud new steward of The Lord Is My Shepherd, a large-scale painting by Northwest artist Colista Murray Dowling. The painting depicts Christ holding a lamb, tending both a literal and figurative flock of sheep and children, with his “followers” waving pennants and marching forth on a path in the background. Until recently, the painting adorned the apse behind the choir loft of a church on the northeast corner of the intersection at Eighth & Failing Street in the King/Sabin neighborhood of northeast Portland.

The building was most recently the home of the Gethsemane Church of God in Christ, but back when the painting was new the congregation of St. Paul’s Evangelical & Reformed Church worshiped there. The Sabin neighborhood was originally founded by immigrant families, predominately Volga Germans - ethnic Germans from the Volga River region of Russia. A history of the church’s roots is detailed on Steve Schreiber’s website The Volga Germans in Portland (volgagemans.net/portland/st_pauls_church.html). The church was founded in 1904 by several families, many of whom were originally from the Volga German colonies of Brunnental and Grimm in Russia. Rev. Jacob Hergert, the first pastor of St. Paul’s, was also an immigrant from Brunnental. He led the congregation for its first 17 years.

His brother Rev. Elias Hergert became pastor of the congregation in 1925. Under Rev. Elias’ leadership the building was expanded with an addition to the east of the original building. The addition created a new, larger sanctuary and Sunday School rooms in the corresponding basement. On November 6, 1938, the congregation held a Kirchweihfest – a celebration to consecrate the new church building with programs in both English and German. Shortly after the Kirchweihfest, a new work of art was presented at the church and dedicated on Christmas Eve, 1938, by the children of Jacob & Amalia Erdman in honor of their parents.

The work is a large-scale painting (6 ft. by 12 ft.) on canvas and was mounted directly against the wall, giving it the appearance of a mural. A painted border on the wall surrounded the canvas, framing it with the phrase Der Herr Ist Mein Hirte along the top in German, and the corresponding translation in English The Lord Is My Shepherd repeated below. Dowling was born in Waverly, Kansas, and studied at the Art Students League in New York, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and the Drexel Institute in Philadelphia. After moving to Oregon in 1890, she studied art at University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and the Museum Art School (known today as Pacific Northwest College of Art). Dowling was a commercial artist, working in a painterly post impressionist style, and is best known for her watercolors, book illustrations, and murals in Portland area buildings.
Commissioned by the Jacob Erdman family, as the painted scroll in the lower right corner proclaims, the painting decorated the apse of the church for nearly 77 years. The Erdman family emigrated from Grimm, Russia and arrived in Portland in 1913. Husband Jacob, wife Amalia (maiden name Felte), and their eight children Emma, Al, August, Molly, Mary, Emily, Jake, and Wally lived across the street from St. Paul’s. Valerie Miller, CHS ’74, and Jacob Erdman’s granddaughter, was baptized at St. Paul’s. Valerie’s mother, Emily, was 16 years old in 1938, when the work was created. Artist Colista Murray Dowling was a friend of the Erdman family.

Family legend has it that the two girls at the fore of the painting might be two of Jacob Erdman’s daughters, Emma and Mary. Their faces are gently detailed, and it is possible, although not certain, that Dowling could have worked from photographs of the girls. Mr. Erdman was firmly rooted in his community, and served as Church Board Chairman from 1939 until his passing in 1964. He worked as a boiler maker for Union Pacific Railroad until 1922, and then became a watchmaker with Lipman-Wolfe & Co. Later, after retiring, he was a sausage maker at Lehl & Popp Grocery, a Volga German family business two blocks south of the church. Most of the Erdman children were married at St. Paul’s and most of the Erdman children were baptized there. Many other Volga German families also had long-time relationships with St. Paul’s and made it their church home for generations.

Beginning in the 1940s with WWII, younger Volga Germans felt increased pressure to disassociate with their cultural and ethnic roots. The demographics of the neighborhood once known as “Little Russia” became increasingly African American in the 1960s as the Volga German immigrants and their descendants moved to other parts of the city. Historically excluded from owning property in Oregon, African Americans were refused home loans from banks except in neighborhoods like “Little Russia.”

By 1973, the St. Paul’s congregation had dwindled to 21 members, and the decision was made to disband and sell the building to the Gethsemane Church of God in Christ, a predominantly African American church led by the Rev. R. L. Meneefee. The new owners kept the painting in its original place of honor on the wall behind the choir loft at the front of the sanctuary. The Gethsemane congregation thrived in its new facility. Pastor Meneefee died in 1991, and his son, the Rev. Winfred Leon Meneefee took charge of the congregation. The demographics of the neighborhood continued to change and attendance began to decline. Upon Pastor W. L. Meneefee’s death in 2012, the property was put up for sale.

The King/Sabin area continues to change, and neighborhood churches are changing as well. Many originally hoped that the building could be saved, but the property had such serious structural issues that this was not feasibly possible. The land is zoned for small scale residential development. While the St. Paul’s/ Gethsemane Church has been demolished, its story will live on in the community through the painting. The artwork was donated to Concordia by Peter Kusyk of Firenze Development. Valerie Miller approached Mr. Kusyk about saving the painting when she heard that he had purchased the property. Valerie, Steve Schreiber, and Mick Herget, all with family ties to the original St. Paul’s Volga German congregation, wanted to ensure that this work of art could be saved because it is important not only to the Erdman descendants, but to many other people who have lived in the neighborhood and attended both congregations over the years. They approached Dr. Brent Mai, Director of the Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) at nearby Concordia University, who was also interested in preserving the history of the St. Paul’s congregation. Together they asked Mr. Kusyk to consider donating the painting to the CVGS. Mr. Kusyk agreed and The Lord is My Shepherd has a new permanent home and is under the care of Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University where it will be enjoyed by new generations of those who live in northeast Portland.

Nina Olsson, part of Heritage Conservation Group, will oversee the cleaning, repair, and displaying of the painting in Concordia’s George R. White Library & Learning Center. “Overall the work is in fair/good condition with no tears,” stated Ms. Olsson, “a testament to the care it received in its church home.” However, some of the paint is flaking, and over the years it has acquired surface grime, which will require conservation care. To restore the large painting to its former glory will require around 80 hours of work. Neighbors, community members, and descendants of the former members of St. Paul’s are showing their support and honoring memories of the church and pastors by donating to the restoration fund for the painting. The cost for restoration is around $12,000, a significant amount, and Concordia is grateful for financial support toward this effort. The long-term care of the painting will be provided by Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia. The completed restoration of the painting will be celebrated with an unveiling in the George R. White Library & Learning Center on Concordia’s campus. An open invitation to the dedication will be announced for the unveiling in late summer.

Contact: Dr. Brent Mai, Director Center for Volga German Studies Concordia University Portland, Oregon 503.493.6460 bmai@cu-portland.edu, for more information.


**SPOTLIGHT - Irene Elisabeth Krieger Schafer**

Irene Elizabeth (Krieger) Schafer is a long time member of AHSGR who is no longer able to attend our meetings and who, consequently, is not known by some of the more recent members of our Society. I wish to thank Lillian Lawrence for having brought Irene to my attention so that I can share her story with you. Thanks to Lillian and her husband Jack, I was able to spend time with Irene at her beautiful home in Northeast Portland a few months ago. She has an amazing collection of Swarovski Crystal in a very nice display cabinet in her living room. She has lived in the house since she and her husband built it many years ago.

**Irene Schafer and Lillian Lawrence**

Irene was born in Portland, OR on March 31, 1926. Her family lived in the northeast Portland Albina district. She lived in the same house on Skidmore between Mallory and Rodney until she got married. She was confirmed at the Ebenezer Church.

On Dec. 2, 1945 she married George Henry Shafer and they lived in Seaside from 1946 to 1950 before they moved back to Portland. They had two children: Sandra Lee, born Sept.16, 1946 and Dale, born Sept. 20, 1950. Sandra married Ron Moorman and both Sandra and Ron have passed away—Sandra just this past year on Feb. 9, 2014 and her husband in April, 2008. Their son Dale is married to Normita. Irene's husband, George, passed away Feb. 7, 1988. Irene has three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

She knows very little about her father's Krieger side of the family except that they probably came from Norka. Irene's mother, Molly (Heddinger) Krieger Hudson was born Oct. 9, 1906 in Canada. Irene's grandmother, Mary (Haas) Heddinger was born in Norka in 1887 and her grandfather, John Heddinger was born in 1878 in Norka. In 1906 Irene's grandparents immigrated from Russia to Mendham, Saskatchewan where they homesteaded a farm. Irene's mother Molly was born shortly after her parents arrived in Canada from Russia. When Irene's grandparents retired from farming their youngest son took over the farm and they then moved to Calgary and where they later died. Irene has no information about where her family originated in Germany.

Irene and George became members of AHSGR a few years after it was organized, almost 50 years ago. They attended several conventions held in other states. When the Society convention was in Portland, Irene served in various committees. She and her husband also entertained many of the out of town visitors in their home.

Irene served on the board of the Oregon chapter of AHSGR for three years and served as vice president for one year. Whenever there were any social activities of the Society planned for out of town, they used their vacation trailer to join in. After George passed away Irene remained active in the Society and helped with many other programs.
Some years ago (some of our older members will remember this) a group of members started making homemade noodles for sale at the meetings. At first they used the noodle dough mixer at Rivercrest Church in northeast Portland; eventually they bought their own mixer and made the noodles at various homes: the Heimbach's, Beck's, and Irene's house. All the ingredients were donated by members and friends. Irene would travel to Oregon City to pick up many dozens of eggs (!), cracked them and got them ready for noodle making when the members got together once a month to make the noodles. They were sold at the meetings for $1.50 a bag. The profits were donated to the Oregon Society.

Irene and George really enjoyed the friendship and social activities with the AHSGR members. Irene was a high school graduate and homemaker. In earlier years she enjoyed gardening and traveling with George. She still makes some of the old German recipes in order to recreate the old time wonderful meals she had made for family and friends.

Because of health problems Irene is no longer able to take part in the Society meetings. Being a Life Member she enjoys the journal and newsletters she gets from the Oregon Chapter and the National Society.

I wish to give Irene a big thank you for sharing her story and letting us in on some of the history of our Society.

I must take this time to personally thank my good friend, Tanja Schell. In a Facebook post to me on August 24, she offered to provide me with photos of Kautz she took during her recent visit to the Volga-German settlement areas. This was in addition to a small video of the Kautz site with enticing commentary:

“The prairie is wonderful in the Volga area in the early summer. And the air that blew across the site of Kautz was filled with sweetness of all the wild flowers blooming.”

She also picked up for me a memento of her visit, a small stone from the Kautz site. Such thoughtfulness! I am proud to call her a friend, as are many others. —Michael Frank

Dr. David J. Karber - Biography

“Digging to Find the Roots of My Family Tree: How I Discovered My Mother’s Paternal Ancestry”

David Karber was born on a farm in Oklahoma, the 6th child in a family with 7 children. He completed the first three grades in a one-room school house and then the family moved to Dinuba, California, and settled on a farm in an area where many Germans from Russia had settled. After attending Reedley College, he attended Tabor College and then completed his bachelor’s degree at Fresno State College. Subsequently, he attended Indiana University where he completed a master’s degree and a doctorate and then pursued his professional goal of serving as a university administrator. For over 20 years, he was Vice President of Administration and Finance and a Professor of Public Administration at California State University Dominguez Hills. In his retirement, he lectures to Chinese government officials that come for training at several California state universities.

Over the years, David knew little about his family’s ancestral heritage. In fact, his mother had no knowledge about where her father was born. Over the past 15 years, David and his wife, Elaine, have developed keen interests in their families’ heritage and have visited ancestral sites in Russia, Ukraine, and Prussia (Poland). They both are active in the Southern California Chapter of Germans from Russia where he is presently serving as Co-President and Treasurer. The Karbers reside in Long Beach, California.
SUDDENLY ALL MY ANCESTORS ARE BEHIND ME. "BE STILL" THEY SAY. "WATCH AND LISTEN. YOU ARE THE RESULT OF THE LOVE OF THOUSANDS."

Linda Hogan, Native American writer in “the Secrets of Joy”

Very small section of the cemetery in Schriesheim, Germany, ancestral German village of Michael Frank.

The amount of care is extraordinary.
Center for Volga-German Studies (CVGS)
http://www.cvgs.cu-portland.edu

The Oregon Chapter of the
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
http://www.oregonahsgr.org/

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

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http://ahsgr.org/Contact.htm
We (Never) Don’t Forget Germans from Russia in South America

Produced by Prairie Public Broadcasting, Fargo, North Dakota, 2015, 60 minutes, DVD, $30.00
Thanks go to the Sunflower Chapter Newsletter, volume 19, issue 2 (summer 2015), Hays, Kansas for this article.

Like North America before the turn of the 1900s, South America was a land of opportunity - a magnet of immigration from Europe and Asia. Many of these immigrants were directly related to Germans from Russia in the United States and Canada. They were a mixture of Black Sea Germans, Volga Germans, Volhynian Germans, Bessarabian Germans and Mennonite Germans.

The wonderers to South America were no longer guided by the North Star in the nightly sky; rather, they found the Southern Cross and a climate exactly in reverse to what they knew. Their traditions are the traditions of North America - their culture, our culture, their music, our music.

*We (Never) Don't Forget Germans from Russia in South America* examines the history, language, music, religion, foodways, and culture of this ethnic group and chronicles how these traditions are flourishing across generations.


**Documentary Review:**

"*We (Never) Don't Forget Germans from Russia in South America* is simply astounding. Its executive producers, Bob Dambach of Prairie Public Broadcasting and Michael Miller of NDSU Libraries Germans from Russia Heritage Collection along with their respective staffs and volunteers have once again crafted a first-rate video production. For having privately dismissed the undertaking as pointless and a waste of resources, this writer is now eating one gigantic platter of crow.

Alone, the Brazilian/Argentine landscape is riveting, and Dambach and crew have masterfully captured it and its people at work and play. Huge credit goes to Miller's staff for assembling and translating a mountain of voice recordings and written testimony into a coherent script. The collaborative result is of profound educational value with a seamless story line told in a way that is as good as it gets.

South American GRs do what their North American counterparts have done and still do but instead of the North Star as their grounding force, they look upon the Southern Cross for guidance."

-- James T. Gessele, Minneapolis, Minnesota

*The DVD is available at [https://store.ahsgr.org/default.aspx](https://store.ahsgr.org/default.aspx) or [http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/index.html](http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/index.html)*

This film was aired at the AHSGR convention in Billings and was well received. Good performances by all, including our own Brent Mai and Fabian Zubia Schultheis.
Laurin Phillip Wilhelm

Laurin Wilhelm died on June 19, 2015 in San Antonio, TX. He was born April 12, 1937 near Jetmore, KS to John George and Leah May (Wagner) Wilhelm. He graduated from Great Bend H.S in 1955 and the University of Kansas in 1959 with a B.A. in German, followed by a B.S. in Education '68 and a M.S. in Administration '70 at KU. After joining the KU NROTC, the U.S. Navy and the Olathe Naval Air Reserve, Laurin retired in 1981 at the rank of Commander.

Laurin was a vice principal and teacher at Central Junior High in Lawrence, from 1968 to 1993. For the past sixty years, he researched his Germans from Russia family genealogy. As an AHSGR life member, he enjoyed translating German and helping researchers at the local, state, national, and International levels. He was AHSGR village coordinator for the villages of Neu-Schönfeld, Neu-Yagodnaya, Schöntal, Schönfeld (pretty field), Schöndorf and Pobochnoye.

Laurin married Gracie Ramos on December 25, 1986. The couple retired to San Antonio in 1997. Laurin will be missed by his wife Gracie and daughter Heather of the home; son Phil, his wife Elizabeth and their children Mary, John, and David of Longmont, CO; son Chris, his wife Tia and their children Gretchen and Matthew of Ketchikan, AK. Laurin was preceded in death by his parents, infant brother Lloyd, and sisters Eileen and Darlene.

Laurin's wishes were to be cremated and have a memorial headstone placed in Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence, KS. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at a later date.

Please sign this guestbook at Obituaries.LJWorld.com. Published in Lawrence Journal-World on June 28, 2015.

See more at:
http://obituaries.ljworld.com/obituaries/ljworld/obituary.aspx?pid=175173884#sthash.seHvCdlO.dpuf
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!
“Germans in Russian History”
Wonderfully written in German and Russian
Thanks, Jorge Bohn

Volga-German Research

Genealogy never ceases to amaze me. Your newsletter editor has been working for years on Kautz Lutheran church records, stories, obituaries, anniversaries, and photos. While I have 7,600 Kautz church records, I am missing 50 years of births and hope to have them located and transcribed before I exit permanently. Lately I have also been working on the transcription of Lutheran church records for the village of Dietel which existed but a mere 2 miles from Kautz. Villagers in each settlement used a different and very limited subset of names (over and over and over). This sometimes resulted in some names being duplicated nearly a 100 times over the generations in Russia. This resulted in a lot of confusion when trying to identify family structures. To mitigate this problem, I combined all birth, marriage, and death records from Kautz into one spreadsheet where now there is much flexibility in how the information from copies of the original documents is entered, modified, and presented. It is now easier to define the family groups and compare them to the families I have on record in my Kautz database. To date, I have identified over 1,100 distinct families. Sorted by family, calculated birthdates from death records now can be checked for accuracy easily against the birthdate in birth records.

Families extracted from preliminary Dietel transcriptions number over 1,100 also. Many records handwritten in Cyrillic, not yet transcribed, will add many more. I’m finding now that many Kautz surnames are prevalent in Dietel, and vice-versa. Having spreadsheets for both, I have been able to combine the data in one spreadsheet with the records from the other village. Now, it is possible to trace individuals and families back further in each village, better than if we had only one village’s data with which to work.

If this doesn’t make sense now, contact me at dm48@comcast.net. I’m sure you’ll be blown away by what is possible these days.
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 (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:

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

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.
## September 2015

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## October 2015

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

Address  
Address  
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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