AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter
Chronicle Unserer Leute

Volume 37, Issue 2
March/April 2016

Mark Your Calendar
Saturday, March 19 - Noon
Oregon Chapter Board Meeting
Saturday, March 19 - 2 pm
Oregon Chapter Program
Tanja Schell - Settlement Camps
Sunday, April 17 - Noon
Oregon Chapter Board Meeting
Sunday, April 17 - 2 pm
Paula Garb - Navigating Volga German, Russian Jewish Heritage
Saturday, May 22 - Noon
Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

Catherine II, the Great
Empress of Russia

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

Satuday, March 19, 2016 Oregon Chapter Program - 2 pm
Tanja Schell will make a presentation on the experiences of her family in the special settlement camps in Siberia where the Volga Germans were forced to live after their deportation in the summer of 1941.

Tanja grew up in Siberia. Her ancestors had been deported there in 1941 from the Volga German colony of Sewald following Hitler’s invasion of Russia. She and her family moved to Germany right after she completed high school. In 2010, Tanja graduated with a Master’s degree in English from the Ludwigs-Maximilians-University in Munich, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at North Dakota State University where she teaches English composition classes.

Tanja remains in close contact with her friends and family who remain in Russia and Germany. This program will be held at The Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University which is located on the third floor of the George R. White Library and Learning Center.

Sunday, April 17, 2016 Oregon Chapter Program - 2 pm
Paula Garb will make a presentation titled: “My Journey toward Peacebuilding: Navigating Volga German, Russian Jewish Heritage.”

After growing up in Colorado and California, and completing high school in San Francisco, Paula married a Russian and lived in the Soviet Union with her family (two sons) for nearly 20 years in the 1970s and 1980s.

On her mother’s side she is a descendant of the Burbach and Nolde families from Balzer and Norka in the Saratov region, and on her father’s side, the Garb and Landy families, Jews from the neighboring Tambov region.

At the University of California, Irvine, she is a lecturer and researcher in conflict resolution, and co-director of the Center for Citizen Peacebuilding. For the past 25 years she has studied and facilitated reconciliation processes between citizens in several conflict zones of the former USSR, the Middle East, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, and Kosovo.

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Tanja Schell Presentation
Oregon Chapter AHSGR March Meeting
Sunday, March 20, 2016
Additional Information

For her third presentation in Portland for the AHSGR Oregon Chapter, Tanja Schell will focus on her family’s experience in Siberia during the years following WWII. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the Komendatur regime, a time period in the 1940’s and the 1950’s when all Soviet citizens of German ethnicity experienced great restrictions to their personal freedoms imposed by the Soviet Russian government while under a close watch by the Ministry of Inner Affairs (MVD). Tanja’s presentation will include showing archival documents from Russia, previously sealed and kept in military archives, and also recounting the memories of relatives and family friends, who, following the 1941 deportation of the German Russians to the eastern parts of the Soviet Union, spent the 1940s and 1950s in western Siberia and personally experienced the time during the Komendatur.

The presentation will finish on a lighter note with a short video of a 100-year-old Volga German, whom Tanja had the privilege to interview last summer, and a small quiz about the Volga German dialect.

The video she will be talking about will be extremely short. It is of Maria Reichel nee Koch, from Dittel who passed away last fall. It will give the audience an idea of her pronunciation and would lead perfectly into Tanja’s little quiz which will consist of her listing a few common word or terms in the Volga German dialect so that the audience and she could discuss them together. She thought it might help to lighten everyone’s mood after the heavy subject of the actual presentation. A question/answer session will follow.

Dick Spady 1923-2016

The local burger joints that bear his name are a beloved part of Seattle life, and Mr. Spady was a fixture in the community, too. “It’s been a good life. I’m very fortunate,” Mr. Spady told The Seattle Times on his 90th birthday in October 2013 at the original Dick’s location in Wallingford. He celebrated by handing out birthday cake and signing autographs for fans grateful for decades of burgers and fries. Mr. Spady’s public efforts included sponsoring a 2007 initiative that led to his founding and funding of the Community Forums Network, a program to facilitate the involvement of regular citizens in public-policy decisions. His son, Jim Spady, said of the program in 2008, “We’re very excited. Dad’s been working on this for a long time. He loves this as much as he loves burgers, fries and shakes. That’s a lot.”

Richard Jack Spady was born in Portland on Oct. 15, 1923. He worked as a telegraph operator for the Union Pacific Railroad, then served in the Navy in World War II, attended Oregon State University on the G.I. Bill, and was a commissary officer in the Korean War, a post which he credited with teaching him a great deal about how to run a restaurant.

In Seattle, the Spady family lived on Capitol Hill and then on Lake Sammamish. Mr. Spady was active in his church, and he was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including an honorary Doctorate of Humanities from the University of Russia’s Open University of Education, “for contributions to Russian democracy and higher education.”

An AHSGR Oregon Chapter Christmas

We enjoyed a traditional German Russian Christmas program with live entertainment and holiday treats. Many thanks to Loretta and Harold Kammerzell for organizing this program, one of the best we’ve had in years. We thank Mary and Roger Burbank for their work in preparing the food for our social time after the program and all those others who assisted in making this program one of the best we have ever had.
2016 AHSGR Convention

Plans are underway for the 2016 AHSGR convention which will be held at the Concord Hilton Hotel, in Concord, California, July 14-16, 2016. The hotel is conveniently located in the San Francisco Bay Area’s East Bay and is adjacent to Interstate 680. It is accessible via the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) from the Oakland and San Francisco International airports. The hotel offers complimentary round trip shuttle service to and from the Concord BART station thus making it easily accessible to the entire Bay Area including San Francisco. Conveniently located across the street from the hotel is a shopping center with a second larger one within a one mile distance. The world famous Napa and Sonoma wine country is a short 30 minute drive from the Hilton. The venue offers an opportunity to visit and enjoy a world class tourist destination.

The program’s theme is “Before the Storm” which will focus on the evolution and life of the colonies in the Volga, Black Sea, and Volhynia areas of the Russian Empire. Speakers have been invited from Russia, Germany, and South America. In addition, topics will focus on:

- Village Area Discussions
- Using AHSGR and on-line resources for genealogical searches
- Use of DNA in genealogical research
- Education and welfare systems in the villages
- Contributions by the colonists to agriculture, manufacturing, and the economy
- Village governance systems
- Churches
- Architecture
- Differences between the Black Sea and Volga villages
- German Russians in the army
- German Russians in Siberia and Kazakhstan
- German Russian emigration
- German Russians in California
- Alzheimer’s
- Developing memory books
- Story Telling Contest
- Youth Program
- Research room with access to the internet and AHSGR books and archival materials
- Two all-day tours to the wine country and San Francisco.

Room rates are $119.00 per night for a single or double room and $134.00 for a room at the Hilton Executive Level. (You are not required to stay at this hotel to attend this convention). Executive Level rooms are on a private key controlled floor with enhanced amenities, access to a private lounge, complimentary breakfast, and an evening manager reception. Parking is $7.50 per day with in and out privileges. Handicapped parking is free. Reservations may be made by phone (925-827-2000, use the code AGR) or on line (http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/C/CONCHHF-AHG-20160710/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG).

Address: Hilton Concord, 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA 94520 (Phone: 925-827-2000)

Plan on joining other AHSGR members in Concord July 14-16, 2016.
**Russian Calendar—1916—100 Years Ago**

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Черными цифрами обозначены ПРАЗДНИКИ.

**Empress Catherina II Traveling in Winter**
The Lonely Life of a Volga-German Transcriber

It all started when I got my hands on my first Volga-German Lutheran church records (for Kautz), births, marriages, and deaths. I was hooked. Most of the German handwriting was acceptably legible. Quite a bit of the Cyrillic was also somewhat readable. This little story will attempt to shed light on those records that weren’t.

Of the Dietel village records (Russian name Oleschna), the pastor had births, marriages, and deaths to be recorded. These records reflected and chronicled the lives of the villagers, in both good times and bad times. The good times: marriages, drawing families together with what were normally joyous and festive occasions. Then followed the births, normally a happy time for the new parents. The bad times: the all-too-often death of a child at an early age for a variety of reasons, especially the wide variety of diseases. The many stillbirths. The deaths...old age, the newborn, and everyone in between.

I’m finishing up the translation of about 11,600 records in the Dietel database. The names and dates are recorded and I’m going back now through those hard-to-read fields, checking and rechecking.

Where some records have illegible dates in birth records, I’ve been able to recover the information from the death record of the same individuals, where the birthdate is calculated from the death date and age.

Where a husband’s name is somewhat illegible, I can look at the same spouse in different records to see what was translated when the record was written better. The same with illegible wives.

**Fields I’ve recorded:** Sequence Number, Village, Record Type, Record Year, Record Number, Birth Date, Baptismal Date, Marriage Date, Death Date, Burial Date, Gender, Person, Family #, Father, Mother, Father Surname, Mother Surname, Sponsors, Age in years, months, days, death records showing cause of death. Thank goodness Brent Mai is helping with the most egregious handwriting. Once the spreadsheet is completed, the information will be handed off to Karen Bouton, the Dietel AHSGR village coordinator. Until now, Karen has been updating her Dietel database with previously translated church records.

My next job will be to go back to Kautz church records, taking advantage of the Cyrillic skills learned with Dietel records. I have quite a few deaths to enter from the Cyrillic years in Kautz. Look how easy these samples are:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Friedrich} & \quad \text{Heinrich} & \quad \text{Christian} \\
\text{Johann} & \quad \text{Johannes} & \quad \text{David} \\
\text{Maria} & \quad \text{Sophia} & \quad \text{Susanna} \\
\text{Elisabeth} & \quad \text{Catharina} & \quad \text{Margareta} & \quad \text{Margareta (Margaretha)}
\end{align*}
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What I wouldn’t give to go back in time and require that these pastors use typewriters or computers! How great it would have been to have had widespread use of cameras in the 1800th and 1900th centuries!

Problems encountered when transcribing:
1. Blobs of ink and ink smears in all the wrong and important places.
2. Tattered left edges of the page just where the date should be.
3. Elongation of a surname wide enough to fill the line, making the name look more like a sine wave.
4. Recognition of a record number error 15 pages back, necessitating the need to go back through 75 records, writing over the previous numbers with the revised numbers, making all almost unrecognizable.
5. Forgetting to specify gender with hard-to-read names.
6. Writing many of the baptismal dates in what looks to be dull pencil, which has faded over the years.
7. Variations in naming the same person in different records.
8. Skipped numbers, duplicate numbers.
11. Similar surnames written in Cyrillic: Schild, Schath, Schaad, Schadt, Schmidt, etc.
12. Great difference between German and Cyrillic alphabets.
13. Running out of coffee and Excedrin.
14. Brent traveling out of town, in other words, unavailable!
15. Pesky Newsletter Deadlines.

Phillip David Frank & Family (From Kautz)
Taken in Siberia...

date unknown

"So that you will think of us brother and sister-in-law, we are sending you this small picture. This is Heinrich's second daughter Marie with her husband beside us on the bench. So that you will know standing beside me is our son-in-law and by Heinrich stands our daughter Frida and our son Victor stands. These three are younger than you. From your sister Elisabeth and brother Philip David".

Photo from:
Henry H. & Emma Frank
Laurel, Montana
DNA - My Quest for Answers

Continued...

As noted in the previous newsletter, your newsletter editor decided to take the plunge and have his DNA submitted and tested through AncestryDNA. My wife did hers several months ago and was happy with the results. During my lifetime I grew up in a German environment. Both my paternal grandparents were Volga German. For over 30 years my life has been centered around the genealogy of Kautz, and Dietel, Russia. On December 21st, I received my test results back. According to these ‘results’, I was informed that I was 50% English, 20% Irish, 12% Italian and Greek, 12% Scandinavian, 2% Iberian Peninsula, 1% Europe East, <1% each of Finland/Northwest Russia, European Jewish, and Europe West. Goodness gracious sakes alive!

After taking time for my heart to stop racing, and having my wife verify my eyesight, I pondered the situation and came to the conclusion that the test had to have been erroneous. My grandparents in Kautz were undiluted Volga-German. Before going to Russia, their ancestors were Germans from Germany, back to at least 1484 in Schriesheim, Germany. My mother had no German ancestry that I know of.

So what did I do? There is a company called 23andme which processes DNA for a prettier penny. It will offer an alternative source of comparison. 23andme and AncestryDNA (and others) determine ethnic biogeographical ancestry through population studies. Essentially, they tell you the proportion of your total ancestry originated in different parts of the world. The collective ancestry from ALL my ancestors may likely be quite different from the DNA of my direct paternal and maternal lines.

I submitted my DNA to 23andme with an optimistic, though guarded expectation of different results, Germanic results. As of February 29, 2016, I have not heard back from 23andMe. When checking for status of the testing, the answer comes back that the sample is “still being analyzed”. The 23andMe DNA database has more than one million genotyped customers worldwide. A person who uses 23andMe will continue to find new relatives as the company’s database grows over time.

When giving the sample, I also gave supposed paternal pedigree information three generations back...all Volga-German. Perhaps the company is still trying to find the one chromosome which reacts to the German National Anthem rather than Shepherd’s Pie or Baklava.

I wait in silence and optimism.

~Michael Frank
Your Oregon Chapter Newsletter Editor

Most Common Kautz Surnames (Male): Benzel, Frank, Frickel, Fuchs, Glockenhammer, Gradwohl, Hardt, Hermony, Kauz, Klein, Knaub, Michel, Müller, Neubauer, Ostwald, Popp, Reuter, Riel, Schneidmüller, Schreiner, Schöneman, Schumann, Stahly, Weber

Most Common First Names (Male): Adam, Alexander, Andreas, Anton, Carl, Caspar, Christian, Christoph, Conrad, Daniel, David, Friedrich, Georg, Heinrich, Jacob, Johann, Johannes, Ludwig, Nicolaus, Peter, Phillip, Sebastian, Simon, Valentin, Wilhelm

Most Common First Names (Female): Amalia, Amalie, Amelia, Anna, Apollonia, Barbara, Catharina, Charlotte, Christina, Dorothea, Elisa, Elisabeth, Eva, Gertrude, Helena, Justina, Magdalena, Margaretha, Maria, Regina, Sophia, Susanna, Theresia, Wilhelmina

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/.

Thank you to all those who have taken advantage of electronic mailings of this chapter’s newsletters. You are not only receiving your copies in color, but there is no post office delay. With the file in .pdf format, you are also able to increase the viewing size of the publication.

Family History Library
Do you have boxes of old family photographs lying around? Would you like to get them digitized so you can share them with other family members while keeping the original photos? Did you know that you can digitize your photo albums and pictures at the Family History Library free of charge? The library lets you use high-tech scanners that will batch-feed your photos and digitize them within minutes. If you don’t have a lot of time to spare at the library, you can still digitize a large number of photos. After your photos are digitized, share them with your family members by adding them to your online family tree.
Catherine II on the balcony of the Winter Palace, greeted by the Guards and the people on the day of the coup 28 June 1762.

From the Internet...

Inside a Russian Archive - http://rbth.com

Volgograd Archives Research by Mila Koretnikov Ph.D. and her Sister Victoria

German Naming Conventions - http://www.rieperoots.com/pages/Names/customs.htm

Abstracting & Transcribing Genealogical Documents -
- http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/a/abstracting.htm

AHSGR Obituary Collection on Family Search -
The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) has amassed a large collection of obituaries. There are more than 455,000 obituary images in this collection. If your ancestors were Volga German, it is likely that you will find an obituary for a family member in this collection. Several years ago, the collection was transferred to the Family Search web site, and is currently being indexed. Most of the English-language obituaries have been indexed, and indexing of the German-language obituaries is well underway. You can search the portion of the collection that has been indexed by following this link to the Family Search web site. It is free to search, and free to download the images.
- https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2367299

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

In a recent previous announcement by Ancestry, the landmark family tree software known as Family Tree Maker was to be discontinued on December 31st, 2015 due to decreasing demand. However, Ancestry will continue to support this software at least through January 1, 2017. All features of the software, including TreeSync™, will continue to work until that time.

**UPDATE: Family Tree Maker to be Continued and With More Options Than Ever Before**

Dick Eastman - February 2, 2016

Ancestry, Inc., the publisher of Family Tree Maker genealogy software, today announced that the program will not be “retired” after all. Instead, Ancestry, Inc. has sold the program to another company that plans to maintain it and develop it further. In addition, Ancestry, Inc. also plans to connect Ancestry with the RootsMagic software by the end of 2016. This should be a delightful announcement for the many users of RootsMagic.

The following was written by Kendall Hulet of Ancestry, Inc.:

**New Family Tree Maker Options**

Since our Family Tree Maker announcement last December, we have continued to actively explore ways to develop and support Family Tree Maker and ensure you have choices to preserve your work in ways that matter to you. Today, I am pleased to announce two options for desktop software that will work with Ancestry.

**Software MacKiev**

Software MacKiev, with whom we have a long-standing relationship, is acquiring the Family Tree Maker software line as publisher for both Mac and Windows versions. Software MacKiev has been the developer of Family Tree Maker for Mac for more than six years and is thrilled at the opportunity to publish future versions of Family Tree Maker for Mac and Windows.

This new agreement means you will receive software updates and new versions from Software MacKiev, and have the ability to purchase new versions of Family Tree Maker from Software MacKiev as they are released. You will have continued access to Ancestry Hints, Ancestry searches, and be able to save your tree on Ancestry with Family Tree Maker moving forward.

**RootsMagic**

We have made an agreement with RootsMagic, a leading genealogy desktop software program publisher, to connect Ancestry with the RootsMagic software by the end of 2016. With this new relationship, RootsMagic can serve as your desktop family tree software, while having access to Ancestry hints, Ancestry searches, and the ability to save your tree on Ancestry. We have heard your concerns and are working to provide the solutions you requested. These new agreements will make it possible to preserve your work on Ancestry and Family Tree Maker and enable future features and benefits to help you discover your family history. Be assured that Ancestry, in cooperation with Software MacKiev and RootsMagic, will continue to support you as you discover your family history.

We ask for your patience as we work diligently through all the details to make these solutions available. Be sure to check back on our blog as we share more information about Family Tree Maker in the next few months.

For more information on Software MacKiev and RootsMagic, click below:

Software MacKiev: [http://www.mackiev.com/](http://www.mackiev.com/)
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:

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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](mailto: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.
# March 2016

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# April 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 April Fools Day</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>12 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15 Taxes Due</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17 Board Mtg. Noon; Chapter Program - Paula Garb - 2 pm</td>
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<td>19 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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<td>27 CVGS - Leavenworth, Washington</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29 CVGS - Leavenworth, Washington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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/

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oregonahsgr.org

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