



Volume 37, Issue 3
May/June 2016



Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, May 7 - 10 am

Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

Sunday, May 22 - 2 pm

Oregon Chapter Program -
Kammerzell Research

Saturday, June 4 - 10 am

Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

Sunday, June 26 - 2 pm

Oberndorf/Collier - Tracing Roots in
Germany, Russia, Canada, and USA

No Board Meeting in July

AHSGR Convention - July 11-16
Concord California



Catherine II, the Great
Empress of Russia

AHSGR Oregon Chapter
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oregonahsgr.org

AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter

Chronicle Unserer Leute

Sunday, May 22, 2016 - Oregon Chapter Program - 2 pm

Shattering Brick Walls

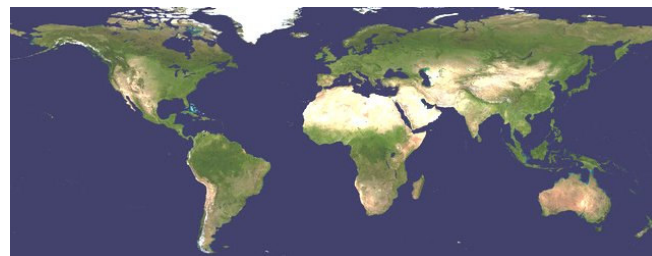
The Harold and Loretta Kammerzell Story



Up until the past year, Harold and Loretta Kammerzell had very limited information about their ancestors. Both had names and some dates associated with their grandparents, but little more. Utilizing their expert research skills and recently discovered sources of information, Roger Burbank and Herb Femling shattered Harold and Loretta's brick walls and took them back as far as 11 generations (to the early 1600's) on their family trees. Please join us to hear this fascinating story and gain inspiration to break through your brick walls!

Sunday, June 26, 2016 - Oregon Chapter Program - 2 pm

Professional genealogist, Tricia Oberndorf, and Oregon Chapter member Rhoda Collier will make a presentation titled "Germans From Russia to America: Connecting the Dots" and discuss their work tracing Rhoda's family roots from Germany to Russia, Canada and the USA.



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President's Message - Steve Schreiber

It's an exciting time for those of us with a strong interest in our German Russian family history.

We've had two wonderful programs the past several months. In March, Tanja Schell discussed her family's experience in Siberia during the years following WWII. Paula Garb, joined us in April to discuss her experiences navigating her Russian Jewish and Volga German ancestry. Both presentations were fascinating and we are very grateful to both Tanja and Paula for traveling to Portland to share their stories.

We have two more great programs coming up this May and June. Both are inspirational stories that make a strong point about never giving up on our family research.

Up until the past year, Harold and Loretta Kammerzell had very limited information about their ancestors. Both had names and some dates associated with their grandparents, but little more. Utilizing their expert research skills and recently discovered sources of information, Roger Burbank and Herb Femling shattered Harold and Loretta's brick walls and took them back as far as 11 generations (to the early 1600's) on their family trees. Please join us on Sunday, May 22nd at 2 p.m. to hear this fascinating story and gain inspiration to break through your brick walls!

One of our new Oregon Chapter members, Rhoda Collier, needed help breaking through her research brick walls. Rhoda teamed up with professional genealogist, Tricia Oberndorf, who helped trace Rhoda's family roots from Germany to Russia, Canada and the USA. Rhoda and Tricia will make a presentation titled "Germans From Russia to America: Connecting the Dots" on Sunday, June 26th at 2 p.m. You won't want to miss this story.

We are blessed to have access to The Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University (CVGS). The resources available within the Center were crucial in both of the projects noted above and have been invaluable to helping many people researching their family history. We're grateful to Concordia University and Brent Mai for making this possible.

I've also been inspired by people like Don Sterkel, another new Oregon chapter member, who is enthusiastically pursuing his family history. Don recently set up a Sterkel Facebook page and in a short amount of time has over 110 people following from around the world. What a great way to use social media for family history purposes!

In addition to my role as Oregon Chapter President, I also serve as the Norka Village Coordinator for AHSGR. I'm pleased to be working with Brent Mai and the CVGS to obtain four family communion registers for Norka covering the time period from 1834 to 1905. The registers are a goldmine of information for those with family connections to Norka. I will take funding to obtain digital images of the records from the Russian archive. If you are interested in helping us obtain these records, please contact me or Brent Mai to learn more about how you can help and also receive copies of the translated records.

I have also launched an updated Norka website which you can find here: <http://www.norka-russland.net>. The new site has been reorganized, new content has been added and there is now a powerful search function. Please stop by and take a look!

Work is also underway to update the Volga Germans in Portland website which will also be significantly improved in the next few months. I'll keep you posted when the new site is ready for prime time viewing.

Mark your calendars for the AHSGR International Convention which will be held in Concord, California from July 13-16. You can register online this year at www.ahsgr.org.

We appreciate all of our members and hope that the work we are doing is beneficial to you all. Thanks for your support!

Steve Schreiber

President, AHSGR Oregon Chapter



Norka - 1912

The purpose of the website www.norka-russland.net is to document and preserve the heritage, history, traditions, and accomplishments of the German colonists who settled in Norka as well as their descendants.

Norka, Russia was founded on August 15, 1767 by colonists who predominantly originated from the area now comprised of the current State and cultural region of Hessen, Germany. These colonists were drawn to Russia by the Manifesto of Catherine II who wished to develop lands on the eastern frontier of the Russian empire. The colony of Norka was located on the unsettled Steppe, not far from the west bank of the Volga River, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) southwest of the frontier town of Saratov. Norka grew from a fledgling settlement to become one of the largest and most prosperous German colonies in the Volga region. (Thank you, Steve Schreiber for this information and wonderful website!).

New Arrivals at CVGS

We, the Board, thought it might be interesting to keep you, the Chapter, informed on some of the new arrivals at CVGS. We will periodically list additional new arrivals in this newsletter. *Lee Ann Schlager*

1850 census of Frank in the district of Saratov, Russia, dated 16 August 1850

Beaverton, Oregon : Dynasty Publishing - 2016

Available at Concordia | Center for Volga German Studies Books (DK34.G3 F7355 2016)

1834 census of Straub in the district of Saratov, Russia, dated 24 October 1834

Beaverton, Oregon : Dynasty Publishing - 2016

Available at Concordia | Center for Volga German Studies Books (DK34.G3 S7728 2016)

[Wasenmüller family tree]. Shcherbakowka.

Available at Concordia | Center for Volga German Studies Charts (0302A)

[Schwindt family tree]. Kraft.

Available at Concordia | Center for Volga German Studies Charts (0303)

2016 AHSGR Convention

Concord, California

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.

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.

AGENDA

Tuesday, July 12

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Wine Country Tour
7 p.m., board and volunteer dinner

Wednesday, July 13

9 a.m.-4 p.m., San Francisco City Tour
7:30 p.m., Welcome Night hosted by the California District Council, featuring Jim Stevens, guitar

Thursday July 14

9-10 a.m., Opening Ceremony
10:30-11:30 a.m., Village Coordinators Meeting
10:30-11:30 a.m., Diane Wilson, AHSGR librarian, on available research materials
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Foundation Luncheon, featuring John Kautz, president and CEO, Ironstone Winery
1-5 p.m., Village Area Discussions
1:15-2:15 p.m., Panel Discussion, "Flegel Library: What it Means to AHSGR Members' Research"
2:30-3:30 p.m., Eric Schmaltz, "Brief History of Former USSR Germans since 1988"
3:30-4 p.m., Kuchen Break
4-5 p.m., Ulrich Merten, "Voices from the Gulag"

Friday, July 15

- 8-9 a.m., Don Soeken, "Video Interviews of Family Members in Genealogy Research"
- 8-9 a.m., Maggie Hein, "Researching German Records for Ancestors"
- 8-9 a.m., Bob Givens, "GR Research through Family History Center"
- 9:15-10:15 a.m., Norman Bitter, "History of Businesses in German (Rooshia) Town"
- 9:15-10:15 a.m., Victor Gess, "Searching for Ancestors in Volhynia"
- 9:15-10:15 a.m., Shari Stone and Dee Hert, "Camels in the Villages"
- 10:30-11:30 a.m., Storytelling Contest, Diana Bell
- 10:30-11:30 a.m., Mike Meisinger, "Using AHSGR Resources for Family Research"
- 10:30-11:30 a.m., Jorge Bohn, "Germans from Russia: Strececau, Volga, to Strececau, Paraná, Brazil"
- 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Awards Luncheon
- 1:15-2:15 p.m., Storytelling Panel and Audience Participation
- 1:15-2:15 p.m., Eugen Hartmann, "Volga DNA Project"
- 1:15-2:15 p.m., David Schmidt, "Finding Records in Germany"
- 2:30-3:30 p.m., Reinhard Nachtigal, "Germans of St. Petersburg: The Story of Their Decline"
- 2:30-3:30 p.m., Katherine Borges, "Using DNA for Family Tree Research and Interpretation of Results"
- 2:30-3:30 p.m., Wayne Bonner, "Balthasar Barthuly, the first Vorsteher of Balzer"
- 3:30-4 p.m., Kuchen Break
- 4-5 p.m., Alexander Spack, "Villages of the Volga"
- 4-5 p.m., Jerry Siebert, "GRs and the Art of Making Raisins"
- 4-5 p.m., Panel Discussion, "Flegel Library: What it Means to AHSGR Members' Research"
- 5-6 p.m., IFAHSGR Cocktail Party and Reception
- 6-7:30 p.m., Dinner on your own
- 7:30-9 p.m., Entertainment, Bill Lepp, Storyteller

Saturday, July 16

- 8-9 a.m., Eric Schmaltz, "Former Soviet GRs Dissension and Emigration Impact on USSR Domestic and Foreign Policy"
- 8-9 a.m., Pam Athersone, "Wilhelm 'Columbus' Hieb's Impact on Lodi"
- 8-9 a.m., Ulrich Merten, "Voices from the Gulag"
- 9:15-10:15 a.m., Alexander Spack, "Volga Village Website" (presented by Tatanja Schell)
- 9:15-10:15 a.m., Lee Macklin, "Case Study of Using DNA for Ancestral Research"
- 10:30-11:30 a.m., David Schmidt, "Finding Records in Germany"
- Noon-1 p.m., Lunch on your own
- 1:15-2:15 p.m., South American GRs Panel Discussion
- 1:15-2:15 p.m., Diane Wilson, AHSGR librarian, on accessing the AHSGR Research Library
- 2:30-3:30 p.m., Open Discussion with Convention Speakers
- 5:30-7 p.m., Cocktail Hour
- 7-10 p.m., Banquet and Entertainment by Grand Island Fire Brigade

A program also is planned for youth 12 years and older from Thursday July 14 until noon Saturday July 16. It will feature classroom discussions on GR history, folklore, genealogy research and the German language, plus field trips to points of interest and historical significance, a picnic lunch and a game of bannock. Transportation will be provided to events held away from the hotel. The cost is \$50 per student. Complete the registration form and include it with your convention registration. The deadline for the youth program is July 1.



Engles Archives



Saratov Archives



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Genealogy Research in Russian Archives

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Greetings from the Old Country...

Your newsletter editor has two American Basset sisters, Lily and Rose, four years old.





DNA

My Quest for Answers

It appears this may be my last post on this subject. Your newsletter editor decided late last year to take the plunge and have his DNA submitted and tested through **AncestryDNA**. The results were pitiful. Both my paternal grandparents were Volga German. For over 30 years my life has been centered around the genealogy of Kautz, 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.

Luckily, like a terrifying doctor's prognosis, I had the common sense to get a second opinion. This I did through a DNA testing organization known as **23andMe**. The results came back. **I am German AGAIN!** I received notification that a granddaughter of my paternal Volga-German grandparents is indeed listed as my first cousin, among others who have taken the test and I suspected as being cousin-related. Some of the people with whom I have corresponded over the years related to my status as AHSGR Kautz village coordinator and have taken the 23andMe plunge are also listed as cousins. So I can now sleep in peace knowing that the stars are again in alignment. As a side benefit, German food now tastes better than it did in late December. Auf Wiedersehen!

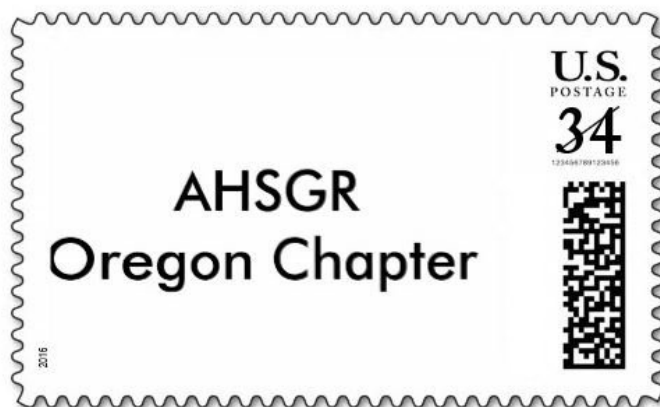
~Michael Frank

Your Oregon Chapter Newsletter Editor

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 notify the newsletter editor (Michael Frank, at dm48@comcast.net, or telephone 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 are mailed. Another benefit is that 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.

Christian Reflector & Christian Watchman

Boston. Thursday. August 17, 1848

[From a Facebook post by Alexis Kuzmick in RUSSIANGERMANS REPOSITORY](#)

Protestantism in Russia.

We find in the July number of the London Evangelical Magazine, the following correspondence from Russia. The facts in respect to Protestantism in that vast empire, which it communicates, are new, and will interest the reader:

On the banks of the Wolga, in the government circuit of Saratow, which lies between 40 and 45 degrees north latitude, there is a German colony; it was founded under the reign of Catherine II., in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Its population amounts to more than 150,000, distributed into 102 villages. These are situated principally upon the banks of the river. Few are more than 25 Wersts from it, and nearly all are within 100 Wersts of the provincial town, Saratow.

The houses are built chiefly of fir wood, and in regular order. They present an appearance of comfort, and consist generally of two, in some cases of three, four, or even five rooms. The roofs are often painted red, and the windows, which are pretty large, either red or green. The interior is, in most cases, neat and orderly.

On the left, or 'hill' side of the river, there are 46 villages, of which 33 are Protestant, and 13 Catholic; on the right or 'meadow' side, 56, of which 40 are Protestant, and 15 Catholic.

A 'household' comprehends the inhabitants of a house in which usually two or more married couples and their children reside. The people are simple, cheerful, and virtuous. From the names of several of the villages—Shafhausen, Glarus, Basel, Zurich, Solothurn, Zug, Lucern, Unterwalden,—we presume that a part of the population emigrated originally from Switzerland. Each 'village' is under the care of a superintendent, aided by 'elders'; and an overseer is appointed for each 'district', comprising several villages. The overseer stands in connection with the Imperial authorities at Saratow, where a 'Guardian Office for Foreign Immigrants' superintends the affairs of the entire colony, and was formerly under the 'Minister for the Interior', (Home Secretary), but now under the 'Minister of the Imperial Demesnes', (Commissioner of Woods and Forests).

The Protestant villages are distributed into 17 parishes, eight on the 'hill' and nine on the 'meadow' side. Two are Calvinistic and fifteen Lutheran; though in some of the latter there is a considerable proportion of Calvinists. There are two provosts, one for each side of the river, who are chosen from amongst the preachers, and whose appointment has to be confirmed by the governmental 'Consistory for the religious affairs of foreign confessions'. It is their province to inspect the schools and churches, and to preside at the annual synods of the preachers. They are subordinate to the Consistory at Moscow. From 1820 to 1833 there were a Superintendent and Consistory in the colony; but afterwards the former was abolished and the latter removed to Moscow.

The churches and school-houses are generally of fir wood, though lately some have been constructed of stone. Nearly all the old ones are too small for the present amount of population. The churches, moreover, are incapable of being heated. In winter, therefore, the service must often be held in the school-room, whose capacity is far too small to contain the people,—as in that part of the year the greatest number attend, not being so much kept away by field work. These evils are of no small magnitude. There is hope, however, of their being gradually removed, by the erection of more commodious and convenient structures.

Public worship takes place on Sundays and festivals, at about ten in the morning. As this cannot always be conducted by the pastor, who has to supply, perhaps, two or three villages, the schoolmaster often fills his place. He reads a sermon from some book sanctioned by the pastor. Those generally employed for this purpose are Brastberger's, Schoner's, and Franke's. Prayers are read from the books of Arndt and Schmolk; and the hymns in use comprise S23, from the Marburg hymn-book. The bells, of which there are one, two, or three in each church, are rung an hour before service-time. During the service two or three members of the 'Churchboard', whose office it is to aid the pastor in preserving order, carry round purses, with little bells affixed, to receive the free-will offerings of the congregation. In the afternoon children and adults are catechised: if this be conducted by the pastor, it is usually upon the gospel for the day, or some other passage of Scripture; if by the schoolmaster, he merely asks the questions contained in the catechism used at school, and reads one or two chapters from the Bible. Of late, adults, especially married people, had neglected these meetings, and thence increasing ignorance of the work of God was observable; for but a small portion is read during public worship, and it is very rarely attended to in the house.

The houses of the preachers are nearly all alike, and mostly of wood. They contain six spacious rooms, together with out-houses, stable, cow-shed, &c. The whole are kept in repair by the congregation, and there are usually annexed an orchard of apple and cherry trees, and a couple of acres of land for vegetable produce. The situation is generally good, and even picturesque.





Barbara and Ed Wagner

Toured Moscow, Kiev, and St. Petersburg

March-April 1977

From the Internet...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AHSGR.Oregon/> (Chapter Facebook Group)

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

<http://www.dobrinka.org/archives/>

Genealogy in Germany - Church Records

<http://ancestorcloud.com/blog/2016/01/05/genealogy-in-germany-church-records/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AHSGR.Oregon/>

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>

NORKA Website:

<http://www.norka-russland.net/geographical-description.html>

Two Volga-German Tours in August

There are two Volga-German tours being hosted in August by Brent Mai and Mila Koretnikov. The first will visit colonies on the Bergseite (west side of the Volga River) and the second one will visit colonies on the Wiesenseite (east side of the Volga). Both tours will visit the colonies of Katharinenstadt and Zürich. Each tour will not necessarily go to all of the colonies on the list below, but will visit those of interest to the respective tour participants.

Tour One (Bergseite): August 9 – August 20

Tentative villages to visit: Bauer, Beideck, Balzer, Dietel, Dobrinka, Dönhof, Dreispitz, Frank, Galka, Grimm, Huck, Hussenbach, Kamenka, Kautz (abandoned), Kolb, Kraft, Kratzke, Kutter, Merkel, Messer, Moor, Norcka, Pfeifer, Rothammel (abandoned), Schilling, Schwab, Sewald (abandoned), Shcherbakovka, Stephan, and Walter. In Volgograd we'll visit the Archives.



Volgograd

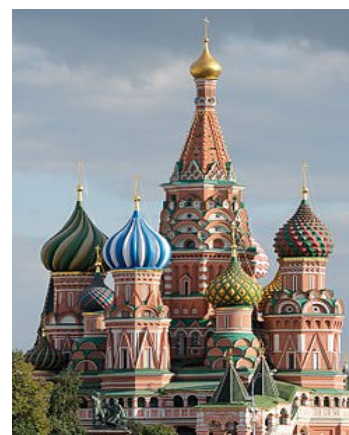
Tour Two (Wiesenseite): August 19 – August 30

Possible villages included in this tour: Bangert, Brabander, Brunntal, Enders, Dehler, Dinkel, Fischer, Hölzel (flooded), Jost (abandoned), Kind, Kukkus, Laub, Lauwe, Leitsinger (flooded), Meinhard, Nieder-Monjou, Neu-Hussenbach, Ober-Monjou, Orlovskaya, Paulskaya, Preuss (abandoned), Rohleder, Schäfer, Schaffhausen, Schönchen (abandoned), Schwed, Seelmann, Stahl am Karaman, Stahl am Tarlyk (flooded), Straub, Streckerau, Susannental, Warenburg, and Wittmann.

Your newsletter editor, Michael Frank, will be among those in tour one. From JFK airport we'll fly to Moscow, then on to Volgograd. We'll then travel north by bus through Hussenbach to Zhirnovsk which will be our hotel and travel hub of daily operations. Zhirnovsk is a town and the administrative center of Zhirnovsky District in Volgograd Oblast, Russia, population in 2010 of 16,872. It is located on the left bank of the Medveditsa River, which flows through Frank and into the Don. Zhirnovsk's distance to Hussenbach is about 6 miles. To Kautz, the village of my paternal grandparents is less than 16 miles.

I look forward to meeting the other members of my group, visiting the remains of my ancestral village of Kautz, that of Dietel, and many other villages west of the Volga which I've read about extensively. I plan on taking many photos and some video. This will provide good material for future pages of volume 9 of **Unsere Leute von Kautz** (Our People from Kautz) CD.

I am looking forward to this first trip to Russia and feel honored to have both Brent Mai and Mila Koretnikov hosting this event.



March 2016: Tanja Schell Presents Again for the Oregon Chapter

On March 19, the Oregon Chapter hosted Tatjana “Tanja” Schell of Fargo, ND. For her third presentation for our group, Tanja focused on the Volga German experience in Siberia during the years following the WWII. December 2015 marked the 60th anniversary of the end of the *Komendatur* regime, a time period in the late 1940’s and the early 1950’s when all Soviet citizens of German ethnicity experienced great restrictions to their personal freedoms while under a close watch by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation (MVD). Specifically, they were not allowed to go anywhere further than a couple of miles beyond their known place of residence without checking with the MVD authorities first. All adults had also to report to a military officer (*Kommandant*) in charge of supervising the local “special settlers”, or members of ethnic groups deported to various regions of Soviet Union, 1-2 times a month.

Tanja’s grandfather Adam Schell, who came to western Siberia as a teenaged boy in the fall of 1941, when his family was deported from the Volga area to Omsk, recalls a change in the attitude towards the Volga Germans once the regime was set into place. He remembers some local Russian residents in his tiny village threatening a Volga German with a note to the *Kommandant* as a measure of influencing an individual. He also remembers the general sentiment of threat with which the *Kommandant* - usually a former member of the active Army - established their rapport. Once on a work assignment in the taiga, Adam ran into a local *Kommandant*, who started to tell him off as soon as he realized that Adam left his village without an official permission signed by him. “But [the local collective farm’s director] told me to go here!” - Adam said. “Your supervisor is not him but me!” - the officer prompted angrily. Adam Schell’s memories are featured in a recently published collection of personal memories about the *Komendatur* regime edited by Arkadiy German and Olga Silantyeva in Russian and German (see the link below).

Tanja’s presentation also included discussing some archival documents from Russia, previously sealed and kept in military archives in Siberia. For instance, she showed a copy of a personal file on Paulina Hein (nee Hoffmann), a Volga German woman from the village of Frank, that accessed at the Tyumen Region MVD Archive in the city of Tyumen, Russia, by Paulina’s granddaughter Tatyana Popkova. Some of the documents from the file included a notice of Paulina being fined a fee of 100 rubles for leaving her place of residence without permission by the MVD authorities. She left to visit her husband, who lived in a different region following his stint in a labor camp in the 1940’s.

To finish her presentation on a lighter note, Tanja gave a small quiz about some Volga German dialect words, such as “Pedder” (godfather) and “Goot” (godmother), and she also showed a short video of Maria Reichel, a 100-year-old Volga German from the village of Dittel, whom she had the visit last summer.

During her visit in Portland, Tanja also spent two days working at the CVGS Archive. While primarily focusing on the documents about the Volga Relief Society’s work in the 1920’s, she was surprised to come across a collection of private letters sent from the village of Kolb in Russia to a Koch family in Colorado. This collection spans a time period from the 1900’s through 1930’s and was donated to the Center by Bill Wiest for Alda Maluck of Colorado. Letters from Russia are one of Tanja’s research interests so this was a lucky find.

Overall, she had a good and productive trip to Portland. Tanja thanks all of the Chapter members who have helped with this trip for their support in making her visit possible!

Pictures:

1. Box with the Volga Relief Society documents at the CVGS (Center for Volga German Studies) Archive
2. Koch Family Letters at the CVGS Archive
3. Personal File on Paulina Hein from the Tyumen Region Ministry of Internal Affairs Archive, obtained by her relative Tatyana Popkova. Courtesy of Tatyana Popkova of Tyumen, Russia.

Link to Arkadiy German and Olga Silantyeva’s 2015 publication on *Komendatur* in Russian and German:

http://www.newbibliothek.rusdeutsch.ru/biblio/files/553_biblio.pdf (Adam Schell’s story starts on page 262).

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.

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	4	5	6	7 Board Meeting 10 am
8 Mother's Day	9	10 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	18	19	20	21
22 Chapter Program 2 pm	23	24 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00				

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Board Meeting 10 am
5	6	7 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	15	16	17	18
19 Father's Day	20 Summer Solstice	21 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	22	23	24	25
26 Chapter Program - 2 pm	27	28 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	29	30		

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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