Mark Your Calendar

Friday-Saturday, June 27-28
Dobrinka 250th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday-Saturday, July 6-12
AHSGR International Convention
Lincoln, Nebraska

Saturday, August 16
Norka Days—CVGS

Saturday, August 23 2 pm—4 pm
Dr. Misha Koretnikov - CVGS

Saturday, August 30 - Noon
Picnic—Camp Emerald Forest

Saturday, September 6
Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

--- No AHSGR Oregon Chapter Meeting in July ---

Friday-Saturday, June 27-28
Our Lady of LaVang Parish Education Center

250th Anniversary of the Founding of Dobrinka
—1764—

June 27-28, 2014 - 250th Anniversary of the founding of Dobrinka, the first Volga German Colony (June 29, 1764). Registration required...To register, contact Sue Cotton (503-493-6369) or visit the website:

45th AHSGR International Convention
Cornhusker Hotel

333 S. 13th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
July 6 - 12, 2014
(most activities July 9-12)

Non-Denominational Church Service
being held on Sunday, July 13.


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

--- Catherine II, the Great ---
Empress of Russia
President's Message

By Steve Schreiber, President, Oregon Chapter AHSGR

As summer quickly approaches and we reach the mid-point of the year, I'm pleased to look back at the great strides we've made.

The year began with a wonderful panel discussion about growing up in the Albina neighborhood. Our panelists, Harold and Loretta Kammerzell, Jerry Schleinig, Kris Zelinka and Don Lynn shared wonderful stories that were enjoyed by one of the largest groups that we've had attend a program in years. We'll be scheduling another program with this panel in 2015.

Our February program featured, Robert Manicke, the Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Portland. Robert provided a very interesting presentation about his own German connections and the work he does assisting German citizens in Oregon.

In March, we toured the former Zion German Congregational Church on NE 9th and Fremont. The Door of Hope Church has done wonderful work to restore the church and parsonage. We appreciate their warm hospitality during our visit and wish them well with their ministry in NE Portland.

It was our privilege to host Yulia Tsymbal and Bob Wagner at our April and May programs. Yulia is the AHSGR Archive Research Coordinator and discussed some of the very exciting projects that are underway in Lincoln. Bob Wagner became President of the AHSGR International Society last year and is bringing positive changes to the organization. We thank Yulia and Bob for the time they took to travel to Portland and for helping us learn about the international organization and the good work they are doing.

We're off to a great start, but there's much more to come this year and we're beginning to schedule for 2015. Please let us know if you have ideas for future programs.

The Center for Volga German Studies is hosting a multi-day celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of Dobrinka, the first Volga German colony on June 27 and 28th.

The AHSGR International Convention will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska this July 6 through 12.

One of our long-standing traditions has been to hold a summer picnic. That tradition returns on August 30th with a gathering at the Bauder's Camp Emerald Forest near St. Helens. Bring your picnic supplies and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with friends and family in this beautiful setting.

Last September, we had a nearly standing room crowd attend a presentation by Tanja Schell. Thankfully, Tanja will be back this September, fresh from another trip to Russia with stories to tell. Tanja plans to set up a conference call with friends and family living in Germany and Russia which will provide us all with an opportunity to interact with them. You won't want to miss this fun and interesting program!

In October, Herb Femling will present on the origins of colonists migrating first to Denmark and later to the Volga. Newly published information on this topic has helped many people find their origins in Western Europe.

Professor Hans Boas from the University of Texas will speak at our program scheduled for Saturday, November 15th. Prof. Boas (University of Texas) is studying German dialect islands in the USA, specifically Texas-German. You can read an article and see a video about the work of Prof. Boas on the BBC website here: http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-22490560. Prof. Boas is also interested in German Russian dialects and he plans to talk with some of our dialect speakers and share his thoughts about their language origins.

We will end the year with a Christmas celebration at St. Michael's Lutheran Church on December 14th that will feature German Russian traditions and music. Family and friends are encouraged to attend. Many thanks to Loretta and Harold Kammerzell for organizing this program!

I'm very pleased to announce that the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR has been accepted as an Affiliate Member of the Oregon Historical Society (OHS). This is a great honor for our chapter to be included with the most distinguished historical societies in Oregon. As a practical benefit, members of the Oregon Chapter may take advantage of $10 off membership at the Oregon Historical Society.

None of this could be accomplished without our dedicated chapter officers and board members who devote their time and resources to making all of this happen. I'm deeply grateful to Bob Thorn, Jim Holstein, Mary Burbank, Roger Burbank, Herb Femling, Harold Kammerzell, Bill Wiest and Ed Wagner for all they do. I would like to specially call out Michael Frank who has done a wonderful job as our Newsletter Editor this year. I think you'll agree that our newsletter is top-notch.

Lastly, I would also like to thank our volunteers who help organize our programs and ensure that everyone feels welcomed. Many thanks to Shirley Hurrell (our Program Coordinator extraordinaire!), Jene Goldhammer, Thelma Wiest, Lee Ann Schlager and Lillian Lawrence, Bruno and Isolde Reule. My apologies to anyone else that I've missed!

As we look forward, our goal is to continue growing our membership. If you have friends or family members with an interest in their heritage, please invite them to one of our upcoming programs and encourage them to join the chapter. At $25 per year, I think it's a great value.

I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings and programs in the months ahead!
On Saturday, May 17, AhSgr President Bob Wagner Visited Portland

We were very honored and excited to have Bob and Marilyn Wagner with us at our meeting on May 17th.

Bob became President of the AHSGR International Society last year. His father and grandparents arrived in Hasting, Nebraska in 1907 from the village of Frank, Russia. Bob attended the University of Nebraska where he received both a bachelors and law degree. Bob and Marilyn live in Lincoln, NE.

Bob spoke about his German Russian background and his decision to become President of the International Society last year. We were treated to a preview of an excellent new video that provides a wonderful overview of our history and the resources available through AHSGR for those with an interest in their family history.

Bob answered many questions about current activities and projects at AHSGR headquarters and we were all very impressed with his knowledge and candor.

We are pleased with the great work that Bob has done during his short tenure as President and the time and effort he made to visit with the Oregon Chapter. We look forward to a stronger relationship with the International Society in the years ahead and wish Bob continued success in his role as President.

Steve Schreiber

Oregon Historical Society

I'm very pleased to announce that the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR has been accepted as an Affiliate Member of the Oregon Historical Society (OHS). This is a great honor for our chapter to be included with the most distinguished historical societies in Oregon.

The following is an excerpt from a letter from the OHS to the Oregon Chapter regarding our membership:

"We are pleased to accept the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR as a member of the Oregon Historical Society's Affiliate Program in appreciation for all that you contribute to Oregon's rich historical legacy."

Members of the AHSGR Oregon Chapter will now receive a $10 membership discount with the OHS. An OHS membership includes a subscription to the Oregon Historical Society Quarterly, free admission to the Society's exhibits and Research Library, a 10 percent discount in the Society's Museum Store, and invitations to exhibition openings, lectures and special programs.

Read more about the OHS Affiliates Program here: www.ohs.org/about-ohs/affiliate-members.cfm

Steve Schreiber
2014 AHSGR 45th Annual Convention

Catherine's Manifesto:
The Great Adventure Continues

Lincoln, Nebraska
July 6 - 12, 2014

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

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

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

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

This month’s SPOTLIGHT falls on Florence Bauder. We are especially pleased to feature her because it is on her beautiful Camp Emerald Forest property that our summer picnic will be held on August 30, 2014.

Florence Elizabeth Schmunk Bauder was born in 1927 in Oregon on a Sunnyside Road farm in the S.E. Clackamas area. Her parents were Katherine Margaret Schafer Schmunk, born in Alexandertal, Volga region, Russia and Henry Schmunk, Sr. born in Rosenberg, also in the Volga region. Florence isn’t sure from where in Germany her ancestors left for Russia, but one of her brothers, while in the U.S. army, visited Heidelberg, Germany and thought that might be the place where some of their ancestors originated since he saw family names there.

Her parents left Rosenberg, Russia as newlyweds about 1905 and settled first in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her father went into farming with a friend but because of a farming accident that left him severely injured, her parents lived there only 1½ years, during which time their first child was born and unfortunately died. They sailed to Baltimore, MD in 1907 after which they moved to Herrington, Kansas. Florence’s mother had two Schafer brothers living there so it was a logical place for them to put down roots. After the birth of five children the Schmunk family moved west to Portland where the rest of the children were born. Florence was the 11th child in the family! From the age of two years on, Florence and her family lived on N.E. 15th Ave. on the west side of the street between Prescott and Going streets in the second large house with a porch. Later her parents purchased two houses on the east side corner of Going St. It was from one of these houses that Florence left to be married in 1949 to Rudolph Mathias Bauder, Sr. He was born in Montana and worked as a sheet metal journeyman.

Florence and her husband’s first home after their marriage, was on S.E. 41st and Tibbetts St. where their first two children were born. They subsequently lived in several more homes in N.E. Portland. Eric, their fifth child, was born in N.E. Portland and years later he and his father Rudy moved to what is now known as the Emerald Forest, 15 miles west of St. Helens. Florence stayed in Portland during the week to work for seven years at Tektronix as an executive secretary. Her work enabled the family to pay the bills, build the Wilark Lodge at the Emerald Forest, and continue tree planting in what is now a large acreage tree farm. Buying and building on this property represented a vision Florence had of developing a Christian Retreat on their 240 acre “stump farm.” It was her husband Rudy’s hard work and creative spirit that helped Florence realize her dream. They later added another 100 acres to the farm. Florence states that she has missed Rudy’s love, wisdom, and labor since 2001. Her son Eric has taken over responsibility for harvesting logs and poles from the trees that he and his father planted over 40 years ago.

Florence took classes to obtain a Commercial Food Preparation Certificate and also studied psychology and accounting to prepare for future development of their forest retreat. In the following years they have hosted many groups who have used their facilities for conferences and group activities.

Florence’s early education was at the Vernon School on N.E. 20th and Killingsworth. For high school she went to Commerce High, graduating from the Commercial/Secretarial program. During her senior year she worked as a private legal secretary for Mr. Frank Hollister, an attorney in Portland.

Florence has led a very active and interesting life. She has been involved in church activities her whole life and has taught every age group in Sunday School. She is now enjoying being a part of “The Seekers,” grades K through 2 at Yankton Community Fellowship in St. Helens.

Another of her great interests and talents is music. She has written religious music through the years and to her credit and honor the University of Portland’s Chapel Choir recently performed her musical composition of Psalm 139.

Her life now centers on her family, landscaping, hosting retreat guests, and creative writing. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are her greatest inspiration. She is pleased that her family enjoys making the family’s ethnic dishes.

Florence and her husband had five children, all accomplished in their own right. There is no space here to list all their achievements. Two of them, Eric, Rita, and her husband Ray, are members of our Oregon chapter.

Florence has been a member of AHSGR for a few years and what she likes most about it is making new friends and learning about the many facets of the history of the Germans from Russia from the CVGS and Concordia Library and from working at the recent AHSGR convention on campus. Being a member allows her and her children to feel a part of a common heritage from Germany and Russia.

Florence invites everyone to their beautiful forest retreat known as Bauder’s Emerald Forest Certified Tree Farm for our summer picnic. Thank you, Florence. It will be a pleasure to see you there.

For more information on the Bauder’s forest retreat see their website: campemeraldforest.org.

Thank you, Thelma Wiest, for bringing this SPOTLIGHT to the fore. Look for more member Spotlights in future issues.
Norka
Saratov Province, Russia

2013 Report to the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR)

Prepared by: Steve Schreiber, Norka Village Coordinator for AHSGR and Norka Webmaster
steven.schreiber@gmail.com, Judy Curtis, Norka Database Coordinator, Norka.judy.curtis@gmail.com,
Jerry Krieger, Norka Newsletter Editor and Publisher, norkanews@gmail.com, Louis Schleuger, Norka Census
Records Coordinator, ohashi70@gmail.com.

Our primary goals are to document the history of Norka and assist those who are researching their families from
this colony. In 2013, the Norka team completed a significant amount of work and this report highlights some of the
key accomplishments.

Norka Outreach

A Norka Facebook page was established late in 2011. The purpose of this page is to serve as a social media
forum for people researching their ancestors from Norka, Russia and to serve as a repository for genealogy,
stories, history and photographs related to this German colony in Russia. Currently there are 407 people following
the page from the USA, Canada, Germany, Russia and South America. This is an increase of 240 people from
December of 2012. (http://www.facebook.com/norka.russia)

The Center for Volga German Studies hosted the first Norka Founders’ Day on August 17th as part of its year-
long celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Catherine the Great's Manifesto inviting the Germans to Russia in
1763. The first colonists arrived in Norka on August 15, 1767. Thereafter, August 15th was celebrated in the
colony each year as “Herkommstag” or Founders’ Day. The tradition was rekindled in Portland this summer and
we plan to continue it on an annual basis.

Almost 150 attendees from across Canada and the United States enjoyed a day full of speakers including:
Steve Schreiber (Portland, Oregon) who provided an overview of the history of Norka from its founding until the
present day; Marianna Weber (Calgary, Alberta) who gave a powerful presentation about the deportation of her
family to Siberia in 1941 and her personal journey to Canada; Reuben Miller (Stony Plain, Alberta) shared stories
about the Norka settlement in the Stony Plain area near Edmonton, Canada; Brent Mai (Beaverton, Oregon) gave
an overview of genealogy research tips and resources; Kurt Goldenstein (Eugene, Oregon) performed traditional
Volga German “Dutch Hop” music; Jerry Schleining (Gresham, Oregon) spoke about the Norka settlement in
Portland, Oregon; and Ruth Werner (Portland, Oregon) of the German American Society provided Kraut Kuchen
(Kraut Bierock) and Riwwelkuchen making demonstration.

Following the program a social hour was held in the Bierstube of the German American Society. The event was
greatly enjoyed by all.

Many new pages were added to the Norka website this year. There are currently 293 pages of information and
431 images on the site. The Volga Germans in Portland website also continues to expand and contains a great
deal of information about families from Norka that settled in this area. (http://www.volgagermans.net/norka/ and
http://www.volgagermans.net/portland/)

Norka Database Project

The Norka Database Project continues to grow as more Norka descendants contact us and request assistance
in finding their ancestors. Last year approximately 35 people requested assistance.

Norka Project items are stored on a CD that is updated annually to coincide with the annual AHSGR convention.
The Norka CD is not freely distributed or available to purchase; it is only available at AHSGR headquarters in
Lincoln, NE and at the several AHSGR chapters (Portland, OR; Denver, CO and Fresno, CA) large enough to have
Norka continued...

computers available for researchers to use. If you are unable to travel to one of these AHSGR chapter libraries, you can request information regarding your Norka ancestral family members by contacting Judy Curtis (email: norka.judy.curtis@gmail.com) or Louis Schleuger (e-mail: ohashi70@gmail.com) for look-ups in the Norka database and in Norka census records.

The Norka Database contains over 32,600 individuals and is a merged collection of Norka Pleve surname charts, some Norka census records and “connecting link” genealogy information provided by many Norka descendants on the generations of their Norka ancestors who extend forward from where both the Norka census records and Norka Pleve surname charts end.

The Norka 2013 Convention Handouts (listed below) are available by sending an e-mail request to Judy Curtis.

- Norka Village Inventory File @ the AHSGR Library (Lincoln, NE)
- Norka 2013 - Surname Charts on the AHSGR Website
- Norka 2013 - Surnames with Preferred Spelling and Variations
- Norka 2013 - What’s Available for Researchers
- Norka 2013 – Guidelines for Researching Individuals & Families (from the Norka Website
- Norka 2013 – Listing of Folders, Articles & Databases on the Norka CD

If anyone has items to add to our Norka CD, please send copies (you keep the originals) either electronically as an attachment to an email to Judy Curtis at norka.judy.curtis@gmail.com or by snail mail to Judy Curtis, P. O. Box 995, Snowflake, AZ 85937. Remember, this is a way to share with others as well as to preserve what you have.

Norka Newsletter

The Norka Newsletter was begun by the late John and Marcella Wart in 1996. Since 1997 the newsletter has been published by Krieger's Root Cellar and edited by Jerry Krieger. The newsletter is published four times a year. Subscriptions are $11 for four issues, $17 Canadian. We welcome questions, information about families and ancestors, interesting stories, and help our readers with their Norka ancestors. A sample issue will be sent on request to norkanews@gmail.com.

Norka Census Records

Preliminary work is underway to cross reference the Norka colonists listed in the 1767 Census published by Igor Pleve in his book “Einwanderung in das Wolgagebiet 1764-1767, Band 3” and the “Lists of Colonists to Russia in 1766 – Reports of Ivan Kuhlberg” also published by Igor Pleve. We expect to complete this project in 2013.

In our continuing efforts of comparing Norka’s censuses information and the various family surname charts researched by Dr. Igor Pleve listed in the Norka database, additional errors were noted on Dr. Pleve’s charts and within the censuses which resulted in more corrections and linkages of family members and updated notes were made to Norka’s censuses databases.

The 1857 Census of Neu-Norka was entered into a Personal Ancestral File (PAF) database with notes which include a cross reference to the corresponding Household in the 1857 Census of Norka. Based on the 1857 Censuses of Norka and Neu-Norka a spreadsheet was generated that cross-references those families that moved from Norka to Neu-Norka.

The cross referencing all of the families listed in Norka’s 1767-1857 Censuses is progressing slowly, but well. In this cross-referencing effort errors were noted on Dr. Pleve’s charts listed in the Norka Database and within the censuses concerning family members’ marriages, number of children and their linkages with other families. Part of the linkage effort, includes the lineage of females when they married since Dr. Pleve did not include that lineage on his charts. The research by many other Norka descendants is being included in this effort, which results in a much more complete family chart from 1767 to the current year. The Hinkel and Urbach databases are still work in progress.
The story of a picture...continued from previous issue

Our request for additional information about the picture shown in sepia below paid off

As it turns out, I received information from Jorge Bohn in Argentina about the origin of this wonderful painting. Though not Volga-German, it represents emigration of Germans to other lands. In this case, a painting by Stefan Jäger (1877-1962), depicting the arrival of German (i.e. Danube Swabian) colonists on the desolate plain of 18th century Habsburg Hungary—a place called Banat. There are many facets of the painting in play at the same time. As with the case of the founding of Kautz, like so many other Volga-German villages, immigrants came to the end of their long journey, weary from a trip where not all survived. They didn’t come all at once, but in several groups with straggler families filling the voids between the major groups over several months.

My thanks go to David Preston, webmaster for one website, molidorf.com/StefanJager.html, which displays the painting and goes into depth about its history and that of the artist. Dave has provided information about the annual Treffen and Conference in Mt. Angel, Oregon which is scheduled for September 12-13, with social activities beginning on Thursday, September 11th. The link to the 2014 Program Schedule is: danube-swabians.org/MtAngel/?page_id=151.

I would urge anyone with a taste for authentic German culture to try out and savor this event. It is free to the public.

Also check out http://www.danube-swabians.org/.

You can also do a Bing search for: “Stefan Jäger Banat” and get a wonderful cross-section viewing of Stefan’s works.
Don’t Forget

Friday-Saturday, June 27-28, 2014 - at Our Lady of LaVang Parish Education Center at 5404 NE Alameda, within a block of the German-American Society on Sandy Blvd.

The Center for Volga German Studies is Sponsoring a Celebration of the Anniversary of the Founding of Dobrinka - 1764

The 250th anniversary celebration of the founding of Dobrinka, the first Volga German Colony (June 29, 1764), will be held at the German American Society in Portland, Oregon. Registration is required.

Details: cvgs.cu-portland.edu/events/2014Jun27.cfm

August 23, 2014 2-4 pm

There will be a presentation by Dr. Mila Koretnikov followed by a reception at the Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University, 2800 NE Liberty St., Portland, Oregon (Suite 300). Additional information will be available on the CVGS Events Site (http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/exhibits_events.cfm).

Best Wishes to Lois Klaus

Her 80th birthday will be on July 11, 2014

If you have ideas for stories, photos, or other items you think might be of genealogical interest to the members of the Oregon Chapter, please direct them to me, Michael Frank, Newsletter Editor, dm48@comcast, or call me at 360/601/7361. Thank you.
Summer Picnic Tradition Returning

Members are reminded to reserve Saturday, August 30, starting at noon (those who want to come as early as 8 am can do so) for the Oregon Chapter potluck picnic that will be held at beautiful Camp Emerald Forest, nestled among a Douglas Fir forest a few miles west of St. Helens, OR. Members of a few years ago will remember the happy family outings our Chapter previously enjoyed at Zane and Lela’s Miller Farm in Vancouver, WA. Because that location has been unavailable for a number of years we are all fortunate that chapter member, Florence Bauder and her family (son Eric, daughter Rita and Rita’s husband, Ray Biggs) have generously offered the use of their unique Camp Emerald Forest.

We are very low-key here at Camp, and our Guests express only positive comments in our ‘Thank You” Book in the Wilark Lodge Lobby. Other than the Pot-Luck food Guests will be bringing the Sunday Brunch will be our treat, since we are a part of the AHSGR Family! Some folks may be interested in a little exercise by swimming or enjoying our Paddle Boats down on our small Lake. Camp guests may stay the night if they wish, well into Sunday, according to Florence.

Some of our past groups have been Billy Graham Volunteers, of which I have always been one in their office during Billy's Portland Campaigns, Concordia University Young People, University of Portland Chapel Choir, Astoria Youth, local Chamber of Commerce Staff, and many Church Men's, Women's and Youth Groups in and around the larger Portland and southern Washington areas.

Our Family is looking forward to a great experience with AHSGR, and if others feel the same way, we can look forward to a yearly resumption of the Annual Pot-Luck Picnic! At any time, anyone may come up to check us out by simply calling first to be sure Eric or I are present...

503 - 397 - 4226 or 1 - 866 - 396 - 4226.

Camp Emerald Forest is about 15 miles west of St. Helens Oregon on very well maintained Pittsburg Road. Before the August 30 date those planning to attend will be given the opportunity to choose whether they will bring an entree, salad or dessert to the potluck lunch. Also, arrangements will be made for car-pooling in case some will need a ride. It is clear that the chapter is fortunate to be offered a pleasant environment for an outing with family and friends at the end of summer. The website clearly provides additional information including enhanced driving directions: campemeraldforest.org/

For more information, please contact: Bill Wiest - wiest@reed.edu 503 - 771 - 4321
or Steve Schreiber (during August) 503 - 774 - 9753

Directions: From North or NW Portland:

From Portland’s Fremont bridge or St. Johns bridge, take Highway #30 westbound. Drive thru Scappoose. Continue on #30 through St. Helens. From the Columbia Blvd. light, pass one more light and watch for Pittsburg Rd.

NEXT ROAD IS PITTSBURG RD. TURN LEFT. YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE PITTSBURG RD.
Approximately 4 miles up is Yankton Church, Grange & School on the right. Turn RIGHT uphill at Yankton School. (Stay LEFT at Gensman Rd. on R.) Curve left-start downhill.

Road turns to gravel approximately 11 miles from Highway #30.
Approximately 3 1/2 miles from start of gravel, you will cross a little bridge - drive on to a 3-way fork ahead. Drive 1 mile up the middle fork road to Camp Emerald Forest. The sign and entrance is on the right.

St. Helens can also be reached from Kelso/Longview. Cross the bridge from Longview into Oregon, take Hwy 30 south to St. Helens. Find Pittsburg Rd., then follow instructions shown above.
This photo, taken by Steve Schreiber at the May chapter meeting is of Thelma Wiest presenting Helen Roloff with a photo that was used in the Spotlight feature in the May-June newsletter.

I'd love to find out who made this sign for the Oregon Chapter which reads:

"Cordial Greeting to All Members of the AHSGR Oregon Chapter"

—Steve Schreiber
FamilySearch.org

I spent 20 minutes trying to use the new FamilySearch.org site June 10, for records which were originally SOAR records ...website: familysearch.org/search/collection/2284875. I thought I would get a lot of good healthy records returned. I was wrong.

Records returned, which were few, had flaws. There were duplicates. In a couple of cases, the mother’s name was the same as the father’s. In others, male children’s names were followed by “(daughter)”.

In a telephone conversation with Mike Meisinger the morning of 18 June, 2014, I expressed my disappointment with the quality of these records, now Family Search, records. Mike was cordial and said he also was concerned with the quality of the information, and would pass my findings along to the powers in charge at Family Search. He indicated that the recording progress of these records is painfully slow, now standing at about 4,000, one percent of the 400,000 records needed to complete the first phase. He said since SOAR records were turned over to Family Search, AHSGR has continued to be the recipient of (acquire) additional obituaries from contributors across the country. These will continue to be forwarded at times to Family Search, to be included in the original transcription process. He stated that the transcription process, per record, is performed by two people independently. The two transcriptions are supposed to match in order for the obituary’s information to be considered accurate.

I, too, hope that the errors can be cleared up. I fear, however, that some of the problems we had with SOAR, the inability of the product to return meaningful obituaries based upon a simple surname or full name, will continue with Family Search. Mike indicated that, like Ancestry.com, when there is no record match, the software attempts to give the requestor SOMETHING. To me, that SOMETHING is normally meaningless fluff, sometimes hundreds of records of meaningless fluff, something to have to go through, record by record, something to have to waste time on. The requestor, in that case, should get a message “NO RECORD FOUND”.

The results from a couple of minutes of searching Family Search using my search criteria: Billings, Montana Deaths 1900-2014, returned 19 records, including:

Katharina Elisabeth Frank Schreiner **listed twice**, b. 1 March 1874 d. 30 October 1945 Laurel, Montana **(not Billings)**
Katharina Elisabeth Frank Schreiner **listed twice**, b. March 1874 d. 30 October 1945 Laurel, Montana **(not Billings)**
John Jacob Frank Sr. b. 1871 Kautz, Russia, d. 24 Sep 1948 Laurel, Montana **(not Billings)**
Father: **George Phillip Frank**, Mother: **George Phillip Frank** (her real name is Susanna Frickel)
Children: Jacob **Cook (Daughter)** Jacob **Frank (Daughter)**, Lawrence **Wilhelm (Daughter)**
Anna Margaret Frank’s spouse is listed as **Lockman**. It should be Lackman.

Whether I ask for deaths from Billings, MT., Walla Walla, WA., or Portland, OR., this same name (and others) pops up as having died:

**Laurene Weirick Sandell** b. 22 May 1914 Fresno, California, d. 16 Jan 2010 United States.

Anyone should be able to duplicate these results/problems.

In looking through my genealogical records, my intent is to provide death dates for those people whom I know grew up in specific cities or states, whom I knew had spouses who died in the same city or state. I just want to be able to provide death dates and obituaries from those obituaries supplied by AHSGR to Familysearch. I don’t want fluff and non-relevant records...just what I ask for.

We’re all trying, hopefully, to provide to our membership the most accurate and relevant information possible. The task is large, due to the quantity of obituaries, but the methodology is crucial. I hope the results are worth waiting for.

~Michael Frank
AHSGR Oregon Chapter Events: ahsgroregon.com/events.html

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

**September 6, 2014** - Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

**September 13, 2014** - Tanja Schell’s Presentation (tentative) - See next newsletter for more details.

**October 4, 2014** - Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

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

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**Upcoming CVGS-Sponsored Events**

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

Among the speakers who will be presenting during the 2-day conference:

- **Dr. Brent Mai**, Beaverton, Oregon, **Introduction to the Volga Germans, Portland’s Volga German Community, Settlement and History of Dobrinka, Architecture of the Volga Colonies, The Volga Relief Society of the 1920s, Volga Germans: The Famous and the Infamous, Settlement & History of Anton, Beideck & Schilling, Genealogical Resources for the Volga Germans, Walla Walla’s Volga Germans.**


- **Michael Frank**, Vancouver, Washington, **Satellite Imagery of the Volga German Colonies Today**

- **Herb Femling**, Vancouver, Washington, **German Origins of the Volga Germans**

- **Dr. Richard Scheuerman**, Spanaway, Washington, **Volga Germans of the Palouse Country, Heritage grains of the Pacific Northwest**

- **Prof. Fabian Schultheis**, Buenos Aires, Argentina, **The Moravian Settlement of Sarepta, The Moravian Brotherhood among the Volga Germans, Volga German Settlements in Argentina**

- **Jerry Schleininger**, Gresham, Oregon, Harold & Loretta Kammerzell, Portland’s Volga German Garbage Industry

- **Jene Goldhammer**, Portland, Oregon and Shirley Hurrell, Beaverton, **Oregon, Quilting Your Heritage**

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


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

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

**August 16, 2014** – Norka Day held at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. Beginning at 9 am.

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

CVGS - 2 pm - 4 pm

**September 18-20, 2014** – CVGS will be presenting at the Deutschesfest in Odessa, Washington.
AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Form

Membership fees are for one calendar year that renew each January 1st.

Annual dues for the AHSGR Oregon Chapter membership are $25.

Membership Year 20____

New Member _____  Renewal _____  Individual _____  Family_______

Name(s) __________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State __________ Zip Code ______

Telephone ______________________ E-Mail __________________________

I want my Oregon Chapter newsletter delivered electronically    Yes _____ No _____

I want to receive my Oregon Chapter newsletter in the mail (paper copy)?    Yes _____ No _____

In order for us to service our membership more effectively, please list all of your German Russian family surnames and all of the villages that you believe your ancestors are from:

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

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

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

Questions? Contact Jim Holstein at jimholstein@gmail.com

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

Additional dues are required for membership in the AHSGR International organization.
See http://www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm for current International membership levels and dues.
Please remit International dues directly to AHSGR headquarters at 631 D Street, Lincoln, NE.  68502-1199.
# July 2014

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Address
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City
State, Zip

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

The Chronicle Unserer Leute  
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Members can find the current schedule of chapter events and newsletters on our Facebook page at:  
facebook.com/groups/AHSGR.Oregon/

Oregon Chapter Website  
ahsgroregon.com

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