Our November 15th program is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our food traditions and see how some of the dishes are prepared. We are fortunate to have noted author Heather Arndt Anderson as our presenter. Heather’s ancestry is from Norka, Russia and she has recently published a book about ethnic foods in Portland entitled “Portland: A Food Biography.” Heather will demonstrate how to make some of our favorite ethnic foods and tasty samples will be available.

This program will be held at 1:00 pm at the German American Society located at the intersection of NE 57th and Sandy Boulevard. The German American Society building recently underwent a multi-million dollar renovation and the results are very impressive. Due to the higher costs associated with this event, we will ask for an $8 per person contribution (or $15 for two). You will also be able to purchase beer and wine at this event. This program will be great fun and we encourage you to bring your family members and friends along!

December Christmas Program

We will continue in the holiday spirit at our December 14th Christmas Program, which will be held at 2:00 pm at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church located across the street from the Concordia Library. Harold and Loretta Kammerzell are planning a traditional German Russian Christmas program with music and activities that you will all remember. This is another great opportunity to bring your family members (especially children and grandchildren) to learn more about their heritage. We also encourage you to bring some of your favorite Christmas cookies to share after the program. See www.oregonahsgr.org/ for more details.

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President's Message
By Steve Schreiber, President, Oregon Chapter AHSGR

All of us have holiday and special family gatherings that are built on traditions. These traditions help us to bond with our family and friends and to give us a sense of our ethnic heritage. Most of these traditions are centered on food. We each have our favorite dishes that bring back memories of cooking or sharing meals with our family members. For me, enjoying *Kraut Kuchen* (also known as Kraut Bierock, Runza, etc.), *Grebbel* and strawberry dumplings (*Eben Kloese*) brings back wonderful memories and has been a great way to pass on traditions to my children.

Our November 15th program is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our food traditions and see how some of the dishes are prepared. We are fortunate to have noted author Heather Arndt Anderson as our presenter. Heather’s ancestry is from Norka, Russia and she has recently published a book about ethnic foods in Portland titled “Portland: A Food Biography.” Heather will demonstrate how to make some of our favorite ethnic foods and tasty samples will be available. This program will be held at 1:00 pm at the German American Society located at the intersection of NE 57th and Sandy Boulevard. The German American Society building recently underwent a multi-million dollar renovation and the results are very impressive. Due to the higher costs associated with this event, we will ask for an $8 per person contribution (or $15 for two). You will also be able to purchase beer and wine at this event. This program will be great fun and we encourage you to bring your family members and friends along!

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I regret to note the passing of Helen Roloff, a longtime member of our chapter and a very special person. Helen always had a smile on her face and positive word to share. She will be dearly missed.

Our chapter picnic at Camp Emerald Forest this past August was a great success. We want to again thank our hosts Florence Bauder and her family (son, Eric, daughter Rita and Rita’s husband, Ray Biggs). The hospitality was exceptional and the setting was delightful!

I’m pleased to note that the membership elected a number of new chapter officers and directors for 2015-2016. Bob Thorn will move to 1st Vice-President, Michael Frank will become our 2nd Vice President, Thelma Wiest joins us as a new Director and Herb Femling has been elected for another two-year term as a Director. Please join me in thanking all of these people for their time and commitment to the Oregon Chapter.

Our chapter treasury remains in good condition thanks to a large bequest from the Spady family several years ago. Our goal is to maintain a strong financial position and not erode our assets over time. We rely on our membership dues to keep the chapter in good financial health and cover our ongoing costs for space at Concordia University, postage for our newsletter and expenses for out of town speakers. Please renew your membership for 2015 today.

I hope that you will all participate in AHSGR’s national “Each One... Reach One” campaign that is focused on increasing membership in both the national organization and the Oregon Chapter. Invite your family members to join or think about buying them a membership as a holiday gift. You can also send the names and addresses of potential members to AHSGR headquarters in Lincoln and they will do the outreach. At one time, the Oregon Chapter had over 450 members and our goal is to increase our membership over the next year. With your help, we know this is possible.

Lastly, please note that we have a new website address at: [oregonahsgr.org](http://oregonahsgr.org). We have begun to document the history of the Oregon Chapter and are also working to write a short profile on each of our Past Presidents. You can see that work in progress under the “About Us” tab on the website. If you can add to our knowledge of the chapter, please contact me.

I hope that you will enjoy the holiday season ahead and we look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming programs.

All the best,

Steve Schreiber
President, Oregon Chapter of AHSGR
The Oregon Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

New Internet Address:
http://www.oregonahsgr.org/
New look...Wonderful content.

Jewell Dunn
Our featured speaker on September 20th was German-American genealogy specialist Jewell Dunn. We began with a potluck lunch at noon followed by her presentation at 1 pm. She gave a lot of good tips on finding our ancestors from the villages, sponsors’ court records, family records in church books, occupations, etc. Thank you, Jewell!

Dr. Mila Koretnikov
On Tuesday, September 2, 2014, a good friend to AHSGR, the CVGS, and in particular, the AHSGR Oregon Chapter, gave a wonderful presentation at the CVGS at Concordia University in Portland. It was very well attended and received. Her topics centered on the status of records and the methods of records acquisition at the various Volga-German Archives in Russia. She shared some of her success stories and told of the loss of some records due to fading. A cordial reception followed this CVGS presentation where members were able to meet her personally and her wonderful husband and daughters.

Helen Ann (Huber) Roloff
In Loving Memory
Spotlight:
The Zane and Lela Miller Story

Zane and Lela Miller have been members of the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR for almost thirty years! During that time they have contributed much to the development of our chapter, with Zane having been on the Board of Directors and Lela having served as both Vice President and President plus serving on the National Board.

Zane

Zane Raymond Miller was born to Raymond Peter Miller and Vivian Ethel Crossen Miller on May 3, 1931 at the Clark General Hospital in Vancouver, Washington.

As a little boy he grew up on a farm in Felida, just north of Vancouver. When he was six years old he started driving a 22-Caterpillar tractor doing custom farm work for neighbors plus a lot of farm work for his grandfather, Heinrich (Henry) Miller, who had immigrated from Norka, Russia. Zane’s paternal grandmother, Elizabeth Fink, also came from Norka to America.

Zane’s great grandfather, Johannes Miller and his wife, Elizabeth, with seven children left Norka in sailing to America from Hamburg, Germany on the SS California. The accompanying children were: Heinrich (Henry), 19, Johannes, 17, Emma, 15, Kathe, 14, Adam, 6, and Kate and Dora, twins, age 4. Zane farmed with his grandfather, Heinrich in Felida until Heinrich died in 1948.

Information about Zane’s ancestors who settled in Russia at the time of Catherine the Great is found in the Volga Relief Society Book, page 16, showing John Earnst Muller married to Maria Katherine Finch on June 13, 1766 in the Evangelical Church, Budingen, Germany before boarding a boat to Russia. They landed at Oranienbaum near St. Petersburg before traveling to Norka in the Volga area of Russia.

Zane’s father, Raymond Peter Miller, worked on the SP&S Railroad and when he was small his dad would take him along at night to be with him. Zane enjoyed learning a lot about trains and the railroad. In 1943 Zane’s dad bought a milk route in Clark County. This was the beginning of the Miller Truck Line. Zane was about twelve years old when he started driving trucks. He worked hard on the farm, worked with his grandfather, and drove trucks there also.

In 1948, at Vancouver High School, Zane was elected president of the FFA (Future Farmer of America) Vancouver Chapter. He went by train to the National FFA convention in Kansas City, Kansas. When he returned a week later he learned that his grandpa Henry Miller had passed away. His family believed it was better to wait to tell Zane so it would not ruin his trip to Kansas City.

After Zane and Lela married in 1957, the milk truck business began to dwindle because of competition from bulk tankers being introduced in the county. Zane and his father did not want to continue with the expense of buying a bulk tank truck so they phased out the milk truck business and continued general trucking.

Zane knew his wife, Lela, wanted to continue her education at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. So they packed up everything and moved to Pullman where he found work with trucks! He hired on with Doten Concrete Mix and later with McGregor Chemical Company, becoming assistant manager at the Pullman office. He moved his family to Colton, WA, where Lela had her first job teaching Home Economics at Colton High School. They lived in Colton for the next four years.

In 1970 Zane and Lela decided to return to Vancouver because his parents were in failing health. His father had fractured his pelvis on the ice while getting into the truck and Zane knew he was needed to help with the trucking business.

He worked to phase out the truck line, then hired on at Andersen Dairy, delivering bottled milk to stores from Vancouver to Medford, OR. He also worked part time for Erickson Farms in Felida driving the strawberry bus. He enjoyed the kids on the bus who were sleepy in the morning and rambunctious in the afternoon after picking berries all day.

He also drove truck for Ericksons, hauling “brights”—unlabeled cans from the cannery to the warehouse and back again when the product was sold. He drove for that company until retiring in 1995.

Zane and Lela have traveled to Russia, including a trip to the Saratov area in 1993, visiting their ancestral villages. They have also visited Ukraine, Germany, Israel, Jordan, Japan, Sweden and Denmark. They have also experienced the adventures of going on six cruises.

Zane has always enjoyed his family—his daughters, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren. He says, “They’re all great!”

Unfortunately, Zane passed away the morning of Tuesday, October 14, 2014. He will be missed. I (Michael Frank) was fortunate to have driven Zane and Lela to the last chapter picnic and back. They were quite the perfect couple and passengers.
Lela

Lela Annette (Sederburg) Miller was born to Albert Andrew Sederburg and Reta Elizabeth (Welch) Sederburg on December 29, 1937 at the home of a mid-wife, Hannah Muffett, about two miles west of the farm home where she grew up. Her twin brother, Lee Albert Sederburg, was born an hour earlier. The doctor did not tell anyone that it was a multiple birth (whether he knew that or not is unknown). The midwife said “another baby is coming!” She and Lee joined an older sister, Kathleen, age 4, and a brother, John, age 2.

Lela’s great-grandfather was John (Johann) Adam Sittner, who was born in Huck, Russia, in the Volga River area. He settled in Sutton, Nebraska, then in Portland, OR. Later he moved his family to Ridgefield, WA. He had married Katherine Schneider in Nebraska. Their two daughters, Anna Margeritt and Lydia were born in Nebraska and John Charles (Charlie) was born in Portland.

Johann Sittner was a farmer and a wood finisher. It was said that in Russia one had to have two ways to make a living. In the summer one could farm and in the winter months one needed to be able to do inside work. He learned to finish wood for cabinets, stair bannisters, and doors. He came to America in the 1880’s. Tax records show that he moved to Ridgefield in 1889.

Lela, with her family, lived on a dairy farm about four miles east of Ridgefield, just east of I-5. It was there that she met her future husband, Zane Raymond Miller. He was their milkman and he was the farmer’s daughter (true story!) He picked up twenty-two ten gallon cans of milk each day from the Sederburg farm.

Lela attended Ridgefield schools where she graduated both from eighth grade and high school. When she was in eighth grade she wanted to become a home economics teacher. She started sewing when she was eight. She also enjoyed cooking, learning from her mother who was an excellent cook.

In 1987 Lela and Zane learned about an AHSGR convention being held in Portland, OR. They attended the banquet and heard David Schultheis speak. They were excited to learn about their past and decided to join and to be involved. After about two years, Zane was asked to run for a position on the Oregon Chapter board as director. Later he was asked if he would like to run for president. He said, “No, but my wife would!” In 1994 Lela became vice-president of the Oregon Chapter. In 1996-1999 she was elected and led the Oregon Chapter as president.

After retiring from teaching she served as a member of the International Foundation for about two years. She enjoyed serving on the board and was very active with the “2000 in 2000” campaign.

Lela and Zane have two daughters. Annette and her husband Russ Pleiss of Battleground gave them two grandchildren, Andrew and Tanya. Their second daughter, Anita and husband Stuart Caruk of Ridgefield, gave them one granddaughter, Victoria. Zane and Lela also have two great-grandchildren, Christopher, 6, and Jordan, 4, of Battleground--both are very precious to them.

Lela attended Clark College, Washington State College and the University of Portland to complete her master’s degree in 1978. She taught for thirty years in home economics and in special education. Twenty-six of those years were in the Vancouver School District.

Lela is now retired. She enjoys quilting and taking care of Zane - they have been married for over 56 years.

—Thanks to Thelma Wiest for this Spotlight article.

On October 15, Ed Wagner passed on information that a reservation has been made and confirmed for the 2015 picnic at Camp Emerald forest. The date is August 7, 2015. Please mark your 2015 calendars.
AHSGR Oregon Chapter Crossword Puzzle for 2014

German Church Records

Have you ever wondered why some of the published dates on your ancestors don’t always agree with your family bible, with the recollections of your family, with census information, or with the person him/herself? Gaining experience in working with Volga-German church records has given me time to reflect on the reasons why such discrepancies sometimes take place:

Ink blobs on records, often strategically placed. Writing over date or age numbers with other numbers. Age, infirm health and visual acuity of the pastor. Lack of proper lighting during that period. Sloppy writing. Similarities between the writing of 7's and 1's, 8's and 5's, 2's and 3's, 6's and 0's. Cyrillic peculiarities. Documents too light (ink fading), documents too dark. Documents sometimes shaved during the copy process. Recollections inaccurate. Verbal transcriptions inaccurate, especially Russian interpretation of German spoken words. Lies told to avoid military service. Lies told to enable military service. Lack of information on some records. Records on individuals scattered among several villages, in some cases. Transcription errors by the genealogists, sometimes perpetuated by other genealogists electronically. Similarity of Russian June and July. Delayed posting of some records for years (out-of-sequence records). Microsoft Excel date-handling software problems. And the list goes on...
AHSGR Oregon Chapter Crossword Puzzle for 2014

Across:
4  An AHSGR Founding Member
9  Russian Writing
10 Catherina’s Real Name
11 Mr. Pleve
15 Empress Document
17 AHSGR Town
19 German Children
20 American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
24 German-Russian Author
25 Previous Oregon Chapter President
28 Brent’s Village
29 Russian Capital
30 Volga-German Cloth
31 Steve Schreiber Village
33 Center for Volga-German Studies
35 Village on the Volga
38 German Capital
39 Walter Historian
41 German 27
44 Ms. Tsymbal
46 CVGS Leader
47 Oregon Chapter Picnic Location
49 Washington State’s German Town
50 Volga Villages – West of Volga
51 AHSGR Village Coordinator Liaison

Down:
1 Volga Village with Seahorse Lake
2 Russian Name for Kautz
3 ЯгодНАЯ ПОЛЯНА - Berry Meadow Village
5 German Meat Market Near Concordia
6 German Grandmother
7 German-American Society
8 2015 Convention Place
12 First Volga-German Village
13 One Volga-German Religion
14 Russian River
16 Empress II
18 Saratov Suburb
21 German “Thank you”
22 Oregon Chapter President
23 Ms. Koretnikov
26 Newsletter Chapter Winner 2014
27 German Dog Sound
32 Russian Royal Residence
34 AHSGR’s First President
36 AHSGR Webmaster
37 Location of 2012 AHSGR Convention
40 CVGS Site in Portland
42 German Fried Dough Pastry
43 German Baptismal Church Record
45 Stalingrad
48 Russian Unit of Currency

The village of Streckerau (Novo-Kamenka), about 1920. Note the type of houses, the enclosed courtyards, guarded by large gates. Thanks to the CVGS - Center for Volga-German Studies at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon and the Deutsches Bundesarchiv for this photo.
German-Russian Timeline (Part 1) - This detailed timeline was prepared by Dr. Eric Schmeltz for inclusion in this newsletter. We thank Eric for his contribution to the effort of better understanding the history of Russia as it relates to German immigrants. Part 2 will be published in a subsequent issue.

1549 - In Vienna, Siegmund zu Herberstein publishes the Latin-language book Rerum Moscovitarum commentarii, containing his travel reports to Moscow in the years 1516-1517 and 1526-1527; it notes that more than 1,500 German soldiers or “mercenaries” serve under the Russian state.

1703 - Under Tsar Peter I the Great (1682-1725), the founding of the port city of St. Petersburg along the Baltic Sea.

22 July 1763 - Tsarina Catherine II the Great (1762-1796) issues a manifesto calling on foreigners to immigrate to Russia, offering incentives and promising special rights and local self-administration.

1764 - The first German colony (Dobrinka) is established along the Volga River.

1765 - The first Herrnhuter colony is founded in Sarepta along the Volga.

1793 - Founding of the port city of Odessa along the Black Sea.

6 Sept. 1800 - Tsar Paul I (1796-1801) grants special privileges to the Mennonites.

1803 - Germans (mostly Schwaben) establish themselves in Odessa.

20 Feb. 1804 - The manifesto of Tsar Alexander I (1801-1825) invites Germans from Baden, Württemberg, Alsace, the Pfalz and other German states to settle in the Black Sea Region.

1804-1824 - The founding of numerous colonies in the Black Sea area by immigrants from Southern Germany and Danzig-West Prussia.

1814 - The beginning of the German migration to Bessarabia.

1816 - West Prussians, Rheinländer, Pfälzer, and Württemberger settle in Volynia (today northwestern Ukraine).

9 Nov. 1838 - Tsar Nicholas I (1825-1855) confirms the colonists’ privileges.

1842 - In the Russian Empire, the codification of all prerogatives, responsibilities, and privileges of the colonists and the granting of civil rights to the colonists.

1854-1859 - Mennonites from West Prussia establish the Samara Colonies.

1861 - The abolition of servitude in Russia under Tsar Alexander II (1855-1881).

1863 - German immigrants from Silesia and Poland settle as colonists in Volynia.

1864 - Reform of local government in Russia; establishment of the zemstvos (organs of district and provincial government designed to bring effective administration below the level of central government).

4 June 1871 - Russia abolishes self-government and the special status for “foreign colonists.”

1 Jan. 1874 - The introduction of compulsory military service in Russia; for Mennonites, forestry service is permitted as an alternative; the first emigration wave of Russia’s Germans overseas (to North and South America) occurs, continuing until World War I.

1881 - “Russification” policy begins under Tsar Alexander III (1881-1894).

1882 - The beginning of German migration to Turkestan.

1887 - Russian law sets restrictions in Volynia and Podolia on landholding and land acquisitions by foreigners.

1892 - Russian law makes land acquisitions by foreigners impossible.

1894 - The founding of German settlements near Orenburg, Russia (near the Urals).

1904-1905 - Russo-Japanese War; Russia’s defeat leads to partial liberation for ethnic Germans and others; new economic and cultural upswing in German settlements until World War I.

1906 - In Saratov, Russia, the Deutsche Volkszeitung is published until 1911.

1907 - German settlements near Aktyubinsk in Kazakhstan are founded.

continued on page 9...
1914-1918 -- After World War I’s outbreak, the 1.7 million ethnic Germans living in Russia are declared “internal enemies” of the empire; during the war, however, about 300,000 of them actually serve in the tsar’s army.

2 Feb./13 Dec. 1915 -- Russia’s “Liquidation Law” is enacted for German-owned land in an area within 150 km of the empire’s western borders; the forced mass deportation of 50,000 Volynian Germans is carried out; later these emergency measures also are to apply to areas as far as the Ural Mountains, but are prevented from implementation because of the subsequent unfolding of political events in Russia (the Revolution of February 1917).

1915-1917 -- Under the last tsar, Nicholas II (1894-1917), a total of about 60,000 ethnic Germans (civilians) die.

Feb. 1917 -- The February (First Russian) Revolution; Tsar Nicholas II is forced to abdicate, soon followed by the Provisional Government’s suspension of the 1915 “Liquidation Law.”

18 Mar. 1917 -- In Odessa, the convening of the First Congress of Delegates of the Association of German Colonists in the Black Sea Region (1. Delegierten-Kongreß des Verbandes der deutschen Kolonisten im Schwarzmeegebiet); the Second Congress meets on 1-3 August 1917.

28 Mar. 1917 -- The founding of the “All-Russian Union of Russian Germans” (Allrussischer Bund Russischer Deutscher) in Odessa.

20-22 Apr. 1917-- In Moscow, the gathering of German representatives from all the German colonies and various cities; this occasion marks the first time that ethnic Germans from across Russia meet as a representative assembly to discuss common aspirations and concerns.

25-27 Apr. 1917-- In Saratov, 334 district authorities of the Volga German colonies gather (Versammlung der Kreisbevollmächtigen der Wolgakolonien).

1-3 Aug. 1917 -- In Odessa, the convening of the Second Congress of Delegates of the Association of German Colonists in the Black Sea Region (2. Delegierten-Kongreß des Verbandes der deutschen Kolonisten im Schwarzmeegebiet); the First Congress convened on 18 March 1917.


1917-1924 -- Bolshevik leader Vladimir I. Lenin seizes power in Russia; he stands as the father of the Soviet totalitarian state, but during his last two years personal health problems diminish his ruling effectiveness; Joseph Stalin serves as the Soviet Nationalities Commissar.

1918-1921 -- The bloody Russian Civil War takes place; after a long struggle, the Bolsheviks (Soviet Communists) emerge victorious, reclaiming much of the former Russian Empire in the process.

1918-1925 -- As a result of the Russian Civil War and the forced grain requisitions by the Bolsheviks, approximately 300,000 ethnic Germans perish; famines in German villages continue in some areas until as late as 1925. This period overlaps with the Great Famine of 1921-1923 in the Volga Region and parts of Ukraine.

24-28 Feb. 1918 -- The Warenburg Conference of ethnic Germans along the Volga; delegates approve of the “Project of a National Union of All Volga Colonies for an Independent Volga Republic in the Russian Federative State.”

3 Mar. 1918 -- The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk between Germany and Soviet Russia; the German military occupies western parts of the former Russian Empire until the end of World War I; a repatriation clause is approved in favor of ethnic Germans in western parts of Russia.

24 Apr. 1918 -- The founding of the German Section of the Communist Party of Russia (Bolsheviks); in the Volga German autonomous republic during the 1920s and 1930s, the Volga Germans (as the majority of its population) remain under-represented in the Communist Party, Komsomol, and Young Pioneers.

30 May 1918 -- Announcement of the “General Statute of the Commissariat for German Affairs in the Volga Region.”

30 June-1 July 1918 -- The First Soviet Congress of Volga German Colonies.

19 Oct. 1918 -- The Council of the Peoples Commissariat of Russia approves the decree on autonomy in the settlement of Volga Germans.

continued on page 10...
19 Feb. 1919 -- The Association of Mennonites of South Russia is established.
1921-1927 -- The USSR’s New Economic Policy (NEP) is in effect; a temporary and relative recovery in ethnic German settlements.
1921-1923 -- The Great Famine in the Volga Region and parts of Ukraine.
April 1921 -- Responding to the plight of Black Sea Germans during the Great Famine, the North Dakota Citizens’ Relief Association (NDCRA) is formed in Bismarck, North Dakota, operating until 1923. Businessman Jacob Rothschild of Bismarck, North Dakota, directs this effort, which is coordinated with Herbert Hoover’s American Relief Administration (ARA).
11 Aug./11 Sep. -- Responding to the Great Famine, the nucleus of the Volga Relief Society (VRS) is formed in Portland, Oregon, on 11 August, while the organizational chapter appears in Lincoln, Nebraska, on 11 September. Efforts are coordinated with Herbert Hoover’s American Relief Administration (ARA).
1922 -- Administrative “streamlining” of the territory of Volga Germans through the integration of Russian, Ukrainian, and Tatar villages.
4 Nov. 1922 -- The Portland, Oregon, and Lincoln, Nebraska chapters of the Volga Relief Society (VRS) are consolidated, operating until 1926. Dr. H. P. Weckesser of Lincoln, Nebraska, serves as its first president.
1923 -- The Soviet authorities register all churches.
16 May 1923 -- The founding of the All-Russian Mennonite Agricultural Society.
20 Feb. 1924 -- The territory of Volga Germans is raised to the status of an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (ASSR).
12 June 1924 -- In the Volga German ASSR, German is introduced as the language of administration and class instruction.
1926 -- The Volga German ASSR’s constitution is approved.

(To be continued in a future issue...)

AHSGR Oregon Chapter History
Steve Schreiber has been working on the development of a history of the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR. A lot of interesting and enjoyable information has been gathered and can be found on the Chapter website at:

http://www.oregonahsgr.org/history.html.

Incoming President Lucille Butts accepts the gavel for her second term from outgoing President, Bill Burbach in 1973
Back to Russia: One Family’s Story

Pastor Alexander Scheiermann of Saratov, Russia, will be speaking at the Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University, 2800 NE Liberty St., Portland, Oregon, on Monday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m. Scheiermann’s ancestors immigrated to the Volga German colony of Yagodnaya Polyana in the 1760s. Pastor Scheiermann was born in 1971 and raised in the Omsk Region of Siberia. His family immigrated to Germany following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Today, he and his wife reside in Saratov, Russia, where they are serving as missionaries. He serves as a District Supervisor over seven churches.

He will share about his experiences growing up under the thumb of Communism, how faith has triumphed, and how God has called him to ministry in Saratov. Scheiermann will be accompanied by Pastor Don Richman, Founding Director of the East European Missions Network.

A great website for Volga-German enthusiasts by Kevin Rupp: Volgagermans.net

Volga-German colony of Dietel (from VolgaArchives.com):

The first few decades of the village’s history are recorded in the “Chronicles” of J. C. Batt (1828). In his memoirs, Batt describes village life:

“Laying underneath the open sky their petty belongings, the colonists gathered together in prayer and thanked God for their safe arrival. A heavy feeling overcame those who prayed: someone left behind their parents, another lost their beloved wife or children, and many arrived in the village orphaned, without a mother or father. Many of us did not even have roofs, underneath which we could seek shelter and a heavy rain fell and soaked our clothes and blankets. This motivated us to immediately begin building our houses. The first winter was very harsh and a lot of snow fell. It is not hard to imagine, with what sadness every villager recalled his sweet homeland. The first winter two of our colonists, travelling to Topovka for provisions, froze to death. It wasn’t until the spring, after the snow had melted, that we found their dead bodies. Only thanks to the will of God, more of our people did not die. With horror, I remember how the colonists in a simple German coat, if they had one, rode to Saratov for flour from the government in order to feed themselves and their children...”

According to statements about the number of colonists, settling in Astrahan Province (which became a part of the Saratov Province in 1797), in 1769 there were 68 families in the colony of Oleshnya. Of those 68 families, 67 were farmers by profession. There were 284 individuals, 158 men and 126 women. The colonists had livestock: 150 horses, 15 working cattle, 140 cows and calves, 15 sheep. In 1769 they made 124.7 cubic meters of flour. They planted 28 cubic meters of rye in the fall of 1768 for harvest in 1769. Buildings in the colony: 30 personal homes, 24 barns, and 24 stables. At first the village belonged to the Lutheran parish of Dittel, formed in 1786, and then Merkel. The village church was built in 1810.

Every Friday the village held a bazaar. From the first to second of July and around the 15th of October the village put on a fair. There were cloth weavers, leather shops, mills, butter churners, carts, Zemskaya School (est. 1873), medical and midwife center and veterinary center. During the soviet era there was a co-operative store, agrarian loan association, primary school, orphanage (maybe kindergarten), library (1926) and the collective farms “Komintern” and “Politaptailung”.

Note: This website has a lot of information on numerous Volga-German villages.
George K. Frank Family
Photo taken 1907 in Montana (in their temporary railcar home)
Thanks to Bob Muntz for this photograph

October Election

All chapter members in attendance at the October general meeting were asked to vote on the nominations for open positions with the Oregon Chapter. All of the nominations were for 2 year terms beginning January 2015 and ending December 2016.

The nominees were:

Bob Thorn - First Vice President  
Michael Frank - Second Vice President  
Thelma Wiest - Director  
Herb Femling - Director (new term)

(A vote was taken and these members were elected.)
German Butterball Soup Recipe  (Like Grandma used to make...)

**Ingredients**
- 8 slices of stale dry bread
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg
- 3 tablespoons butter, room temperature
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup of cooked chicken, cubed or shredded

**Instructions**
Remove crusts and crumble bread into a medium sized bowl. Knead in allspice, salt, egg and butter. Keep kneading until mixture is smooth. Form into walnut-sized balls. Try one in boiling water to see if it will stick together. If not you will need to add another egg. Place covered in refrigerator while preparing soup. Heat the chicken broth in a stockpot. Add chicken and simmer for 10 minutes. Drop butter balls into soup and simmer about 10 minutes until the balls rise to the top of soup.

October General Meeting

The October meeting was called to order and hosted by **Michael Frank**. Our president, Steve Schreiber was in Utah on a great family vacation. Hope he got a good tan!

**Florence Bauder** opened with an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Lela Miller** then spoke about her life with Zane, both true Oregon Chapter patriots.

A brief election was held on several open chapter positions. Results shown on page 12.

This was followed by a great detailed presentation by **Herb Femling** on the Danish factor as it related to Volga-German migrations. Many of us, I am certain, were unaware of the scope and importance of Denmark. We look forward to Herb’s continued advances in his research and the formal publication of his research in the years to come.

If you weren’t able to attend, you missed out on a lot of great desserts, information, and comradery.
Diseases/Conditions written in German

There were many ways to die in the Volga-German colonies. A wonderful website, http://www.antiqusmorbrous.com/German/GermanB.htm, lists common and uncommon causes of death found in most German death records. Shown below is a brief list of illnesses, beginning with the letter “B.” Substitute the letter “B” with another letter, perhaps “P,” to get a list of causes of death beginning with the letter “P.” Clickable words give additional information about the disease or condition. You might have an advantage in medical school by memorizing these terms.

Note that the website posts actual examples of disease/condition handwriting as found in the records.

Thanks to my amazing cousin, Dorothy Robinson Brandner, who has taken the time, with great effort, to transcribe German causes of death from Kautz church death records and provide this tool by which she makes her determinations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>German/English Glossary of Causes of Death and other Archaic Medical Terms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biketenzwar</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bauchschmerz</strong></td>
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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. Also, you are able to increase the 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/.
HUMMEL
A satellite view of Hummel (Aleksandrovka), a Volga-German Village on the Wiesenseite (east side of the Volga). Note the ‘seahorse’ lake ready to ‘devour’ the village.

Crossword Solution from page 6
AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Form

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

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

Membership Year 20__

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Individual _____ Family ________

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Address

City __________________________ State ____________ Zip Code _________

Telephone __________________________ E-Mail _________________________

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

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

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

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

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

Questions? Contact Jim Holstein at jimholstein@gmail.com

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<td>1 Chapter Board Meeting 10 am</td>
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<td>2 Daylight Savings Time Ends</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 Pastor Alexander Scheiermann 7 pm - CVGS - (Page. 11)</td>
<td>11 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15 Ethnic Food Presentation - 1 pm German-American Society $8/$15</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Thanksgiving</td>
<td>28 Black Friday</td>
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### December 2014

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<th>Sun</th>
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<td>6 Chapter Board Meeting 10 am</td>
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<td>1 Cyber Monday</td>
<td>2 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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<td>7 Pearl Harbor Day</td>
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<td>9 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Chapter Christmas Program - 2 pm</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
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<td>25 Christmas</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td>30 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>31 New Years Eve</td>
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</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/

Oregon Chapter Website oregonahsgr.org

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