**OREGON CHAPTER PICNIC**

**Saturday, August 30, 2014**
Plan to join us for our annual picnic beginning at noon on Saturday, August 30, 2014 at [Camp Emerald Forest](#). Please bring an entree, side dish, salad or dessert to share. For more details contact Bill Wiest by e-mail at wiest@reed.edu or at (503) 771-4321. The website is: [http://campemeraldforest.org/](http://campemeraldforest.org/)

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**Mila Koretnikov**

A friend to all Oregon Chapter members will give a presentation at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 2 at the CVGS at Concordia University in Portland.

Dr. Koretnikov will talk about the process used to obtain documents from Archives in Russia and will share some of her success stories.

A reception will follow this CVGS presentation. The public is invited to attend.

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President's Message

By Steve Schreiber, President, Oregon Chapter AHSGR

It has been a beautiful summer and I hope everyone has made the most of the wonderful weather we’ve enjoyed in the Pacific Northwest.

I know that some of you were able to attend the AHSGR Convention in Lincoln and the Center for Volga German Studies celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the first colonies. We hope that you will share your experiences with those of us who were not able to attend.

As this newsletter goes to publication, we are a few days away from our traditional Oregon Chapter summer picnic on August 30th. For many years we enjoyed gathering at Zane and Lela Miller’s farm in Felida. This year, we will gather at Camp Emerald Forest located in a beautiful setting a few miles west of St. Helens. We are very grateful to Florence Bauder and her family (son Eric, daughter Rita and Rita’s husband, Ray Biggs) who have generously offered the use of their camp. I hope to see you all there on the 30th. We plan to start at noon. Please bring a potluck entrée, side dish, salad or dessert to share with other members. The Bauder’s have asked us to honor their no-alcohol policy at the camp.

Given that we’re in the midst of baseball season, I’ll borrow a few common phrases from that sport. This fall, we’ll have a “change in line-up” for our monthly programs. Tanja Schell is unable to join us in September but has agreed to present to us in early 2015. German dialect researcher, Prof. Hans Boas, has a conflict that will prevent him from joining us in Portland in November, but he has agreed to reschedule his presentation in February 2015.

Fortunately, we have “a deep bench” of speakers and more interesting programs lined up.

In September, noted German genealogy expert, Jewell Dunn, will be with us to provide some helpful tips on finding the origins of our families in Germany. Jewell is a specialist in this field and a very entertaining speaker. You won’t want to miss this one. Mark your calendar for September 20th.

In October, Herb Fendling will share information about the group of colonists that first settled in Denmark before migrating to Russia. Many of the founding Volga German colonists were part of this group. If you have hit a brick wall in your research, you may find that this is the answer you’ve been looking for.

Do you like German Russian ethnic foods? Heather Arndt Anderson will be with us in November to provide us a demonstration of how to make some her favorite dishes. Heather recently published a book on the history of ethnic foods in Portland. This will be great fun and good way to pass along our traditions to the next generations. Bring your family to this event. This will be held at the German-American Society.

I think you will agree that these programs are a “home run.” Ok, enough sports jargon.

We have more great programs lined up for the coming year, so keep an eye on our website, Facebook page and newsletter to learn more about the dates, times and meeting locations.

I want to thank and congratulate Michael Frank, our newsletter editor, for the wonderful work he is doing. Several months ago, we entered the Oregon Chapter Newsletter in the AHSGR International newsletter competition and were awarded second place prize at the convention in Lincoln. Well-done Michael!

Please note that our website has a new look and has moved to:

oregonahsgr.org

I look forward to seeing you all in the coming months!

Steve Schreiber
THE OREGON CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014 AT NOON

German-American genealogy specialist Jewell Dunn will be our featured speaker on September 20th. We will begin with a potluck lunch at noon followed by the presentation at 1:00 pm. This program will be held at the Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University which is located on the third floor of the George R. White Library.

For more information:
https://www.apgen.org/directory/search_detail.html?mbr_id=3070

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2014 AT 2 P.M.

Our talented chapter member, Herb Femling, will present on the origins of colonists migrating first to Denmark and later to the lower Volga region of Russia. Newly published information on this topic has helped many people find their origins in Western Europe. This program will be held at the Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University which is located on the third floor of the George R. White Library.
Top Ten Genealogy Research Mistakes
By Kate Miller-Wilson

As you track down lost relatives and expand your family tree, make sure you avoid these top ten genealogy research mistakes.

Top Ten Genealogy Research Mistakes
One of the great things about the hobby of genealogy is that you don't have to be an expert to have a great time. There are many wonderful free genealogy websites, and you'll find some great tutorials for beginning your family history research. However, there are also some potential pitfalls for new and experienced genealogists. As you begin or continue your research, be sure to avoid these common mistakes.

Mistake One: Starting with Wrong Information
Before you begin your family tree, it's a good idea to make sure you have correct starting information. Use multiple sources to check the names and dates for your grandparents and great grandparents. Building a family history is like building a home, and your nearest relatives are the foundation. Your foundation needs to be solid for the rest of your research to stand firm.

Mistake Two: Forgetting to Ask Questions
Many people regret that they didn't ask older relatives about their lives. If you have living grandparents, great grandparents, or aunts and uncles, ask them about their upbringing and early life experiences. Record as much of this information as you can, either by using a video camera or simply taking detailed notes. Years from now, you'll thank yourself for preserving this part of your family's history.

Mistake Three: Believing Family Legends
It's important to record the oral history of your family, but it's also a good idea to check out the facts. Remember the children's game of "Telephone?? Family legends can be similarly transformed as they are passed down through the generations. There is probably a kernel of truth to most of your family stories, but it's best to independently corroborate the information.

Mistake Four: Neglecting to Record Sources
It's easy to get caught up in the excitement of finding new information. As you rush from record to record, you may take only haphazard notes. However, it's important to record detailed information about your sources. This is what makes your genealogy credible, and it will be very valuable to future generations. You know your work is accurate, but your great grandchildren might appreciate having a source.

Mistake Five: Not Having a Goal
Anyone who has started a blanket family history research project can tell you that it can get very massive very quickly. With each generation, you'll have more branches you can follow. To avoid getting overwhelmed, pick a goal. Concentrate on one branch of your family at a time. When you've reached a dead end, go back to another branch. Your genealogy project will be a lot more fun this way!

Mistake Six: Being Inflexible with Spelling
You've probably heard the stories of family names being changed when people immigrated to America. In fact, family names were changed all the time. Census records are notorious for misspellings, since the census taker often didn't confirm spelling with the family. As you do your research, make sure you try multiple spellings of each last name. You'll have more search results that don't apply, but sometimes, this is the only way to find the important records.

Mistake Seven: Skipping Generations
As you record family members, you're bound to come to a brick wall at some point. You may see that another individual appears to be a parent or sibling of your mystery ancestor. Don't be tempted to record this information without data that clearly connects the two individuals. Doing this can quickly lead you down the wrong path and waste time and energy.

Mistake Eight: Keeping Only One Copy
Whether you store your records on the computer or in hard copy format, you need a back-up copy. No matter how careful you are, disasters can happen. Losing your information usually means starting back at the beginning. Have at least two copies of your work at all times.

Mistake Nine: Blindly Trusting Others' Research
The Internet is great for genealogy. You can collaborate with other long lost family members, combining your research efforts and helping each other fill in the blanks in your family trees. However, keep in mind that not everyone has high genealogy research standards. If other researchers don't have clearly recorded sources, it's best to do your own work. Even if you do see sources, it pays to double-check the accuracy of the information.

Mistake Ten: Seeing Only Names and Dates
Genealogists deal in facts. You start with a few pieces of information, and from these, you are able to gather hundreds of names, dates, and places for your family history. It's easy to get bogged down in all of these facts. After all, they are very important. However, remember the human side of your research. Think about how your ancestors felt, lived, and worked. Use the information you know to create a real history for your family.

Genealogy is a wonderful hobby, and if you avoid these top ten genealogy research mistakes, you'll have a family history you can pass down to future generations.
AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter Award
The AHSGR Oregon Chapter took 2nd place for Chapter Newsletters at the International Convention for 2014 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

1st Place went to the Calgary Chapter
3rd Place went to the Northern Colorado Chapter
The Sunflower Chapter received honorable mention

These awards reflect the dedication and commitment to excellence and hard work by editors in the production of newsworthy topics relevant to the mission of our collective organizations.

Jorge Bohn posted a photo of the interior of the Central Workers and Farmers Cooperative in Balzer, Russia in 1927.

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.
Starvation Letter
By Michael Frank

I recently received from Dennis Zitterkopf, village coordinator for Huck, a 3-ring binder consisting primarily of starvation letters. I turned the binder over to Brent Mai at CVGS. A sampling from that donation:

Translated by David D. Frank
May, 1991

January 25, 1925.

God with us until we meet again, if not down here, then up there.

In the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. To begin with the New Year, Oh, that the dear God gives His blessing on everything we do in His name, also beginning with this letter, so that it will be praised there, for where I am here, the name of the Lord is praised, Hallelujah!

Oh how long it has been since I had something in my stomach, it hurts so much. Yes, if one could take my misery and put it in a pot it would be so heavy as the sand at the seashore. But still I have faith in God. To Him I raise up my eyes, and He still appears from His Holy throne.

In the heart, much beloved brother-in-law Johan Georg and sister-in-law ANLIS HUCK, BE HEARTILY GREETED BY ME, AND IN THE SPIRIT be kissed with the purest love, especially from me, your sister-in-law, KATRINLIN NEIBAUER.

Dear in-laws, still a long fruitless awaiting for a letter from you. I can no longer neglect to write to let you know how it goes with me. Namely, that I am still in good health, which health I also wish you and all your children. But I must tell you, dear in-laws, that yours and also my dear mother has gone from this time into eternity. Oh, she had suffered so much pain in her last days of life. Yes, she was tired of life. On the first day of the New Year, she arose in the morning, got dressed and talked and laughed. At noon she fell from a stroke, which was the third one and also the last. She had a difficult suffering. I had to lift her every day for 3 weeks, until the Lord ended all her suffering and carried her home, and put her body to rest, which rest I also wish her from my Heart.

But it is very difficult for me now, and makes me sad, since I am all alone now. Yes, alone, but still not alone in my grief. And the mother knew in her solitude that she was not alone. She had separated herself from the world and relied only on her Lord and Savior, and at the last day said “I will die and go to my Savior. I was by my children in America”.

[Image of a bank receipt with the name George Huck and a note: Wolgadeutsche Bank LandwirtschaftlichenKredits Pokrowsk a/W. Německy-Volžský Bank C/X. Kredita t. Pokrovsk h/Volga. Wolga-German Bank for agriicultured Credit.]
1925 Ein 25. Februar

Gott will und Gott tut auch
mit uns alle die Dinge, die wir wollen
und werden Gottes willen stets erfüllen,
und es wird von Gott geboten,
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und Gott will es auch, und Gott will es auch,
Forgotten Faces from the Bogoslovlaga Forced Labor Camp
From Frank and Hussenbach

### Eva Elfriede Ernstovna

| Year of birth: | 01/11/1923 |
| Place of Birth: | ASSR of the Volga Germans, the Frankish village, district Frank |
| Nationality: | German |
| Citizenship: | USSR |
| Social origin: | employee |
| Profession, specialty: | |
| Location to mobilize: | Omsk region, Velizhanskiy area / plant Buhtarsk |
| Mobilized by (when): | Velizhanskiy RVC 09/25/1943 |
| Where and when arrived: | 10.17.1943, Tyumen |
| Eliminated (date, reason): | 22/04/1946, Tagilstroy |

### Bezle Jacob A.

| Year of birth: | 1924 |
| Place of Birth: | ASSR of the Volga Germans, the Frankish village, district Gussenbah |
| Nationality: | German |
| Citizenship: | USSR |
| Social origin: | peasant |
| Profession, specialty: | has not, the Chiefs of Party, state, cooperative and public institutions and organizations |
| Location to mobilize: | Omsk region, Tyumen region, village Sazonovo |
| Mobilized by (when): | Tyumen RVC 04/09/1943 |
| Where and when arrived: | 10.17.1943, Tyumen |
| Eliminated (date, reason): | 22/04/1946, Tagilstroy |
**Propp Davyd (David) Ye (G.)**

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<td>Profession, specialty</td>
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**Alexander G. Fink (Ye)**

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<td>Location to mobilize</td>
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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 ______ No _____

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

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

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

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

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

Questions? Contact Jim Holstein at jimholstein@gmail.com

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

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

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| Oregon Chapter picnic on Saturday **August 30** at noon - see page 1. | Labor Day | 2 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00  
Mila Koretnikov  
Presentation 7 pm | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Chapter Board Meeting 10 am |
| 7 Former Zion Church - 100th Anniversary 2 pm | 8 | 9 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00 | 17 | 18 | 19 Deutschesfest in Odessa, Washington | 20 Potluck and presentation - Noon  
Deutschesfest |
| 21 Deutschesfest in Odessa, Washington | 22 | 23 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00 | | | | |

### October 2014

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

Address
Address
City
State, Zip

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

The Chronicle Unserer Leute
(Chronicle of Our People)
is published bimonthly by the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR.

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

Oregon Chapter Website
oregonahsgr.com

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Position Open

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