



AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter

Chronicle Unserer Leute

Volume 36, Issue 4
July/August 2015



Mark Your Calendar

First Saturday, July

No Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

July 13-18 - AHSGR Convention

Billings, Montana

First Saturday, August

No Oregon Chapter Board Meeting

Saturday, August 8, Noon - 4:00 pm

Chapter Picnic

Camp Emerald Forest

Saturday, September 19 - Noon - 3 pm

David Karber Presentation



Catherine II, the Great
Empress of Russia



1765 emigration to the Volga Illustration by Oskar Aul
in the book "The Manifesto of the Empress" by Viktor Aul

Today, as we continue to live our lives in relative peace and prosperity, let us not forget the unimaginable hardships and courage our pioneer ancestors endured to secure a better life for their families and generations to come. Their life in Germany had been hard. Their journey to Russia was long and arduous. Many perished along the way. Many perished until the villages became more self-sustaining and organized. Times of prosperity were balanced by poor harvests and poor weather. Large families were balanced by problems of stillbirths and deadly recurring epidemics. Many were sent away to Russian labor camps, never to return. Families were uprooted and scattered to distant parts of the empire. The lucky ones were able to leave, some at risk of life or imprisonment, many arriving in the Americas, with little English skills, but with the determination of hard work to succeed, bringing their families and starting life with the fresh breath of freedom and opportunity. We salute you, German pioneers.

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President's Message - Steve Schreiber

As I write this message, summer weather has taken hold here in Portland. I hope that you are all able to enjoy the sunshine and warm temperatures that make Oregon the place to be this time of year.

Today I had lunch with my old friend Jim at the Alameda Cafe on N.E. Fremont. The restaurant is at the edge of the Rose City Cemetery. As we were about to leave, I said to Jim, "I'm going to go next door and visit my relatives." He looked at me in a puzzled way and asked what I meant by that comment. I explained that there are many German Russians (possibly thousands) buried at the Rose City Cemetery. He asked why they were all buried there and I explained that the old German Russian settlement was just down the road in the Albina area. In all the years that we've known each other, Jim had no idea about my connection to this part of Portland (which is now his neighborhood) but was fascinated to learn about our ethnic group and its history in Portland. On the drive home I thought about the opportunity we all have to tell our friends, and especially our families, about our unique heritage and what an important role German Russians have played in our community over the years. Make sure to use those openings at family gatherings this summer to keep the story of our heritage alive and don't be shy about sharing your family story with friends.

The past few months we've had two great programs. Tanja Schell joined us from Fargo, North Dakota in April and presented the research she has done on her family's history in the 20th century, especially with regard to the 1930s and 1940s. Tanja also presented several videos of older Volga Germans who live in Germany and Russia. It was a fascinating program and we all wish she could have stayed longer. In May, Dr. Eric Schmaltz joined us from Oklahoma and discussed the Kaliningrad enclave of Russia and the debates over settlement of ethnic Germans there from 1990 to 2000. Kaliningrad was once the German city of Königsberg, founded by the Teutonic Knights in 1255. The city was largely destroyed during World War II and its ruins were captured by the Soviet Red Army in 1945. The German population fled or was removed by force and the city was renamed Kaliningrad on July 4, 1946. Dr. Schmaltz provided an overview of the efforts to relocate some of the displaced German Russian population to this area in the 1980s and 1990s. It was a story few of us have heard and it was told in a very powerful way. Many thanks to both Tanja and Eric for taking the time to present to the Oregon Chapter.

Please note that we will not have programs in July or August. I encourage everyone to attend the AHSGR Convention in Billings, Montana from July 13-18. It's a great opportunity to meet other people who have a strong interest in their heritage and make some new friends or renew old acquaintances.

Thanks to the leadership of Thelma Wiest and Carolyn Penner, and the hospitality of the Bauder family, we will again have an Oregon Chapter picnic this summer. This year's event is scheduled on August 8th from Noon to 4 pm and will be held at the Bauder's Camp Emerald Forest (see more details about the picnic in this newsletter). We hope you can all attend!

Our next chapter program will be on September 19th and features David Karber who will make a presentation titled "Digging to Find the Roots of My Family Tree: How I Discovered My Mother's Paternal Ancestry." David was born on a farm in Oklahoma, the 6th child in a family with 7 children. He completed the first three grades in a one-room school house and then the family moved to Dinuba, California, and settled on a farm in an area where many Germans from Russia had settled. Over the years, David knew little about his family's ancestral heritage. In fact, his mother had no knowledge about where her father was born. Over the past 15 years, David and his wife, Elaine, have developed keen interests in their families' heritage and have visited ancestral sites in Russia, Ukraine, and Prussia (Poland). They both are active in the Southern California Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia and the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (a joint chapter) where he is presently serving as Co-President and Treasurer. The Karbers reside in Long Beach, California.

We're planning our 2016 program calendar right now, so please let us know what you would like to learn more about!

At the October program we will have our annual elections meeting. Seven of our eleven board positions are ending this year. If you would like to be considered for a board position please contact me at steven.schreiber@gmail.com or 503-774-9753. An active board is key to maintaining a healthy and evolving organization that serves the membership. I'm grateful for the great group we currently have. Please take time to thank Bob Thorn, Michael Frank, Jim Holstein, Mary Burbank, Roger Burbank, Herb Femling, Harold Kammerzell, Ed Wagner, Bill Wiest and Thelma Wiest for their service this past year.

I wish you all a safe and wonderful summer!

Steve Schreiber

Oregon Chapter President



September 19 Chapter Meeting - Noon - 3 pm

David Karber will join us to make a presentation titled "Digging to Find the Roots of My Family Tree: How I Discovered My Mother's Paternal Ancestry."

Over the years, David knew little about his family's ancestral heritage. In fact, his mother had no knowledge about where her father was born. Over the past 15 years, David and his wife, Elaine, have developed keen interests in their families' heritage and have visited ancestral sites in Russia, Ukraine, and Prussia (Poland). They both are active in the Southern California Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia and the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (a joint chapter) where he is presently serving as Co-President and Treasurer. The Karbers reside in Long Beach, California.

The program will be held at The Center for Volga German Studies in the Concordia University Library (3rd floor). We'll begin with a potluck lunch at noon and the program will begin around 1 p.m.

Billings AHSGR Convention

The AHSGR (American Historical Society of Germans from Russia) International Convention will be held in Billings, Montana, July 13-18, 2015. Most genealogical activities July 15-18.

Check out <http://www.ahsgr.org>
for more details and updates.

For current & Upcoming **CVGS** Exhibits and Events, check out

http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/exhibits_events.cfm

and <http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/events/2015Apr28.cfm>



Drawing of a Volga German village
by Elena Gallmeier

A DONATION !



C
V
G
S

A donation was made in memory of Mary Mills to CVGS for further research.
At the Leavenworth mini conference Brent Mai, Jean Roth, and Doris Evans.

Oregon Chapter AHSGR and GROW Meeting - June 21, 2015

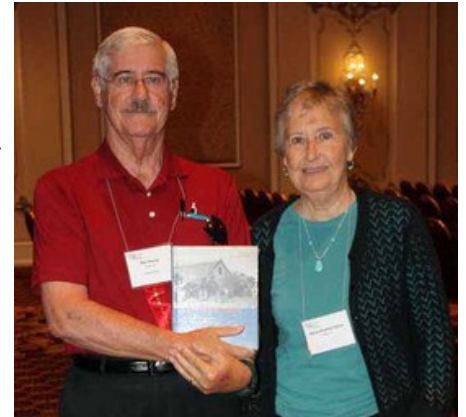
The Oregon Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia



Our June 21st program was our first joint meeting with the Germans from Russia of Oregon and Washington (GROW). The program was held at the German American Society building near Sandy Boulevard in Portland.

Alex and Nancy Herzog, from Boulder, Colorado, discussed the impact on ethnic Germans of the 1941-1944 Nazi occupation of Southwest Ukraine. Much of the story was told from personal accounts of Alex's family which made clear the difficult choices they had to make during that time. We're grateful to Alex and Nancy for traveling from Boulder to share this story with us.

Following the program, all of those in attendance (about 50 people) enjoyed a potluck and had time to socialize. A special shout out was given to recognize the importance of fathers on this Father's Day weekend.



We enjoyed meeting with GROW and hope to schedule more joint programs in the future.

—Steve Schreiber



Membership of the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR was indeed fortunate to have witnessed three great presentations over three months at our chapter meetings. Bruno Reule in March, Tanja Schell in April, and Dr. Eric Schmaltz in May. We thank them for providing such great insight into their areas of expertise.



46th International Convention of the American
Historical Society of Germans from Russia

A Salute to Our Heritage



JOIN US IN A CELEBRATION of our German-Russian heritage. Enjoy food, music, dance and storytelling that will enhance your appreciation of our heritage. Meet others who share your interest. Learn more about German-Russian history, heritage and culture from national and international speakers.

July 13-18, 2015
Holiday Inn Grand Montana
5500 Midland Road • Billings, Montana 59101

For conference rates and registration deadlines, please visit ahsgr.org.



American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

*"Our past is in the archives and records from
villages in Russia, Ukraine and the Black Sea."*

For more information or to become a member
call 402-474-3363 or visit us at www.ahsgr.org
International Headquarters • 631 D St., Lincoln, NE 68502

AHSGR 2016 CONVENTION

It will be held the third week of July in Concord, California – located 29 miles northeast of San Francisco.

Rest in Peace

Don Weidenweber, October 14, 1940 - July 20, 2014

Santa Rosa Valley Mourns the Loss of Don Weidenweber

On October 14, 1940 Don arrived in God's blessed city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the third son of Anne and John Weidenweber. He thrived in the Catholic household. From the age of eleven he began to caddy at a golf course, driven by his innate desire to help provide for the family. He attended Catholic schools and, for a time, studied at a seminary. Unable to comply with the rigid constructs of the seminary, he left at age sixteen and lived until graduation with friends, or in his car. After graduation he was admitted to Indiana Pennsylvania University, a teachers college. He graduated with a teaching degree and bachelor's degrees in mathematics and geography. Through ROTC classes he became an officer in the Army. His orders sent him to Wurzburg, Germany with the Third Infantry Division (mech) where he met his wife, Sigrid and there his daughter Anne was born. After his service he returned with his family to Pittsburgh, PA starting civilian life. He was chosen for IBM training courses and worked in the infant computer industry. His son Michael was born in Pittsburgh. He worked at Control Data in Denver Colorado, moved to Oregon and after working for NCR and a California Leasing Co. In 1974 he started his own business Computer Concepts, Inc. a hardware/software company. At any one time every family member was employed by the company. Moved by the plight of the Afghan people, he started a national organization, American Aid for Afghans to help these people with humanitarian support. With his wife he traveled several times to the border of Afghanistan to insure that the organization's funds were used as directed and kept from falling into the hands of radical Islamic groups. The organization was honored by President Reagan with an invitation to the White House and a State Department dinner for its effective work and efficient use of monies. Don developed lifelong relationships with many of the people he met through this work. His heart for disadvantaged youths and orphans led him and his wife to build and support orphanages and wells in Kenya, South America and Asia, as well as provide equipment for a hospital in Kisii, Kenya. Grandchildren were the reason for a move to California after living 36 years as an Oregonian. Not long after the move to California, Donald was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells. He fought the disease valiantly and with good grace. However, he lost the battle on Sunday, July 20, 2014. He is greatly missed by his wife of 50 years and his family.



Vivian Schneider Leonard

Oregon Chapter Member, age 86, June 26, 1928 - April 22, 2015



Council of Northwest Chapters Meeting (Leavenworth, Washington)

Over 50 people attended a conference celebrating 250 Years of Volga German Heritage in the picturesque town of Leavenworth, Washington from April 29th to May 1st. The conference was jointly sponsored by the **Center for Volga German Studies** and the **AHSGR Council of Northwest Chapters**.

Excellent presentations were given by Dr. Brent Mai (Introduction to the Volga Germans and Faith Through Architecture), Dr. Richard Scheuerman (Harvest Heritage and St. Petersburg, Catherine's Capital), Jean Roth (Hesse: Land of our Ancestors and Sophie's Journey) and Steve Schreiber (The Deportation of the Volga Germans in 1941).

Attendees also viewed a screening of the documentary "Dryland." Filmed over a decade and set in the American West, Dryland traces a young man's quest for victory in a rambunctious contest, while battling to preserve a threatened way of life. This cinematic meditation on the fate of rural America reveals a paradoxical struggle between technological advancement and the dwindling family farm. The stars of the film, Josh Knodel and Matt Miller, both with German ancestors from Russia, strive to win the annual Lind Combine Demolition Derby and preserve the legacy of their families' Eastern Washington wheat farms.

Many thanks to Jean Roth and Brent Mai for organizing this conference. It was greatly enjoyed by all!

...Steve Schreiber...



Lauwe, Russia (Jablonowka) in 1930 (Bauer family photo restored by Viktor Grasmik)



A gathering at a marketplace in 1897.

Maxim Dmitriev traveled the length of the Volga river to take his photographs.

We want YOU to volunteer!



Volunteering at the Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS)

The Center for Volga German Studies continues to pursue its mission to support research into and preservation of the heritage, history, traditions and accomplishments of Volga Germans with the help of its volunteers. The CVGS relies on its volunteers to keep the Center open for visitors as well as to work on a number of projects to increase awareness of and promote the Center.

The target areas of volunteer projects include research and writing of various aspects of Volga German history and culture, data entry, archival/library projects, conference and event planning and other on-going projects, such as translations, photo identification, cataloguing family gifts, and continuing to develop the list of potential contacts for the Center. One of the most important projects the Center is involved in deals with requests from patrons for assistance in finding their ancestral roots.

Volunteers enjoy the opportunity to connect with Volga Germans, to help others connect with their heritage and to share activities of the Center. CVGS volunteers agree that assisting others to discover their heritage and the opportunity to share all that the Center does is a personal benefit to them as well.

The CVGS welcomes your interest in volunteering. Please contact Valerie Miller, CVGS Volunteer Coordinator, at highlife56.v@gmail.com or by phone at 503.314.5686

From Horst Gutsche:

Eighty percent of the people who settled in and around Odessa, Washington, were Germans from Russia. This September the Odessa Deutsches Fest takes place for the 45th time and will be held on September 18, 19 and 20, 2015.

Each year the town hosts Odessa Deutschesfest, which occurs on the third weekend in September. Several thousand guests travel from distant places to experience the German festival. Attractions include the Sausage Bowl (Odessa High School 8-man football), Quilt Display, Art Show, Horseshoe Tournament, Historisches Museum, Bed and Tricycle races, Flea Market, Parade featuring modern farm machinery, Jugend (Youth) Garten, German Biergarten, and food circus.

Some of the foods featured at the event include traditional German sausage, kartoffel und kloese, Reuben sandwiches, borscht soup, kuchen, apple strudel, hot potato salad, pfeffernüsse, cabbage rolls, and a variety of homemade pies. Polka music is provided by the Oom Pas and Mas, composed of lederhosen-wearing local musicians. The group is known for its performance of the Chicken Dance.

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 viewing size of the electronic version using the free software Adobe Reader. If you have a computer and printer, you can always print your own archival copy in color or black and white. Copies of past newsletters are also available for viewing or printing at the chapter website, <http://www.oregonahsgr.org/>.



!!! Making A Donation !!!

We are fortunate to have many individuals who have shown their commitment by making a donation to the **Oregon Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR)**, allowing us to further our mission of collecting, preserving, and presenting the history of Germans from Russia in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Please consider supporting us through a financial contribution. The Oregon Chapter of AHSGR is a private, tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Federal tax ID number 93-1313164). Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

To donate, please send your check (payable to Oregon Chapter AHSGR) to:

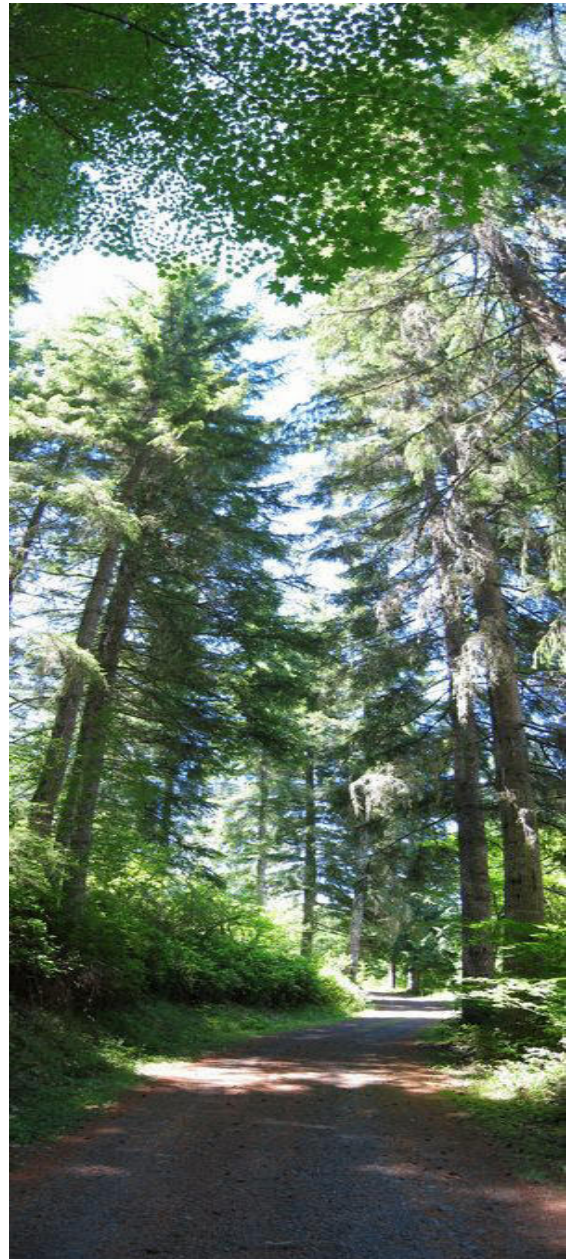
Jim Holstein
Treasurer, AHSGR Oregon Chapter
PO Box 55218
Portland, OR 97238-5218

Please contact Jim by email (jimholstein@gmail.com) or at (503) 367-1757 if you have any questions. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Camp Emerald Forest

For August, the chapter’s regular meeting will be replaced by a picnic at Camp Emerald Forest on August 8, noon - 4 pm. Plans are being made now to ensure another smooth and marvelous experience. <http://campemeraldforest.org/>

Our own Florence Bauder, your host.



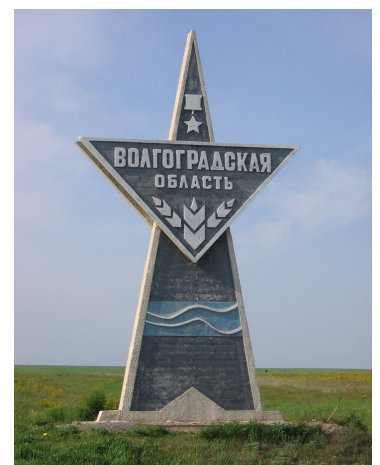
Saratov, Russia

Genealogy Tip:

Now is the time to go through old photographs and make certain they are properly identified! (Have you not yet taken my advice from the last Newsletter issue?)

Families...

All families are old... Some just keep better records! —Ancestry.com



Volgograd, Russia

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.

July 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4 No Chapter Board Meeting Independence Day
5	6	7 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	8	9	10	11
12	13 AHSGR Convention	14 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00 AHSGR Convention	15 AHSGR Convention	16 AHSGR Convention	17 AHSGR Convention	18 AHSGR Convention
19	20	21 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	29	30	31	

August 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 No Chapter Board Meeting This Month
2	3	4 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	5	6	7	8 Chapter Picnic Camp Emerald Forest - Noon - 4pm
9	10	11 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00	26	27	28	29

AHSGR OREGON CHAPTER
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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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Roger Burbank

Herb Femling

Harold Kammerzell

Ed Wagner

Bill Wiest

Thelma Wiest