Dr. Eric Schmaltz, Professor of History at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, will discuss 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 is a descendant of German Russian ancestors and is a member of the Board of Academic Advisors for the Center for Volga German Studies.

This program will be held at the Center for Volga German Studies on the third floor of the George R. White Library on the Concordia University campus.

Alex and Nancy Herzog, from Boulder, Colorado, will discuss the impact on ethnic Germans of the 1941-1944 Nazi occupation of Southwest Ukraine. It is a story you will not want to miss.

Attention!

This program will be held jointly with Germans from Russia Oregon - Washington (GROW) at the German American Society building at 5626 N. E. Alameda, Portland, OR 97213.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
02 President’s Message
03 oregonahsgr.org, Billings, 2015 Programs, CVGS
04 Spotlight: Harold and Loretta Kammerzell
05 German Language
06-09 In the Track of the Russian Famine (1892)
09 Bruno Reule Presentation
10 SS Brandenburg
11 AHSGR Convention
12 Volga-German Poem; Portland Churches
13 Springtime and Love
14 Chapter Costs and Donations
15 Recipe and Miscellaneous
16 Membership Form
17 May/June Calendars
18 Chapter Officers and Directors
President's Message - Steve Schreiber

Springtime is seen as a time of growth, renewal, of new life being born, and of the cycle of life once again starting. Along with this renewal, the past can often be lost. We have very few physical reminders of our German Russian history here in the Portland area. The primary structures that we can proudly call our own are the churches built by the German Russian settlers beginning in the 1890’s.

As time passes, we are under threat of losing some of those structures. The former St. Paul’s Evangelical and Reformed Church on NE 8th and Failing was founded by Rev. Jacob Hergert. After Rev. Hergert’s death, the church continued under the able leadership of his brother, Rev. Elias Hergert. It was commonly known in the neighborhood as “Hergert’s church.” In 1973, the church was sold to the Gethsemane Church of God in Christ, which was active until about 10 years ago when the congregation dwindled. The church has fallen into very poor condition and renovation is no longer financially viable. A developer, Peter Kusyk, has purchased the property and plans to remove the old structure to build new housing on the site. Mr. Kusyk has been very cooperative in working with The Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University and has donated a mural painted by well-known artist Colista Dowling titled “The Lord is My Shepherd.” The Erdman family donated the mural to the St. Paul’s church in 1938. Concordia plans to restore the mural and display it in the George R. White Library.

An electrical fire at the former Second German Congregational Church on NE 8th and Skidmore has threatened the survival of that structure. We hope that the current congregation (The Allen Temple CME Church) will be able to raise enough funds to save this historic building that has connections to many of our families.

These events remind us that while we continue to change and renew, we must also take action to save what is important to us. That may take the form of preserving a building or simply documenting our family history. These are legacies that we can hand down to future generations. The Oregon Chapter of AHSGR is committed to helping with this work.

If you haven’t renewed your membership lately, please take time to do so. We count on your support to provide quality programs and to preserve our shared history.

We are grateful for the wonderful programs we’ve had this year. In March, our very own Bruno Reule told his powerful and moving story of growing up in war torn Europe during World War II. If you haven’t read Bruno’s book, we have copies available for sale at our monthly meetings. We also hope to make Bruno’s presentation available on DVD. Thank you Bruno!

We’re pleased that Tanja Schell will join us again for our April 26th program. Tanja was born in Russia and lived there until her family moved to Germany in the late 1990s. She’s currently working on her PhD at North Dakota State University. Tanja will discuss the personal research she has done on her family’s history in the 20th century, especially with regard to the 1930s and 1940s. Tanja will also present several videos of older Volga Germans who live in Germany and Russia. These videos are examples of oral history on topics ranging from folklore to personal memories about their life in Siberia after the 1941 deportation.

On May 23rd, Dr. Eric Schmalz, Professor of History at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, will discuss 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 the Soviet Red Army captured its ruins in 1945. The German population fled or was removed by force and the city was renamed Kaliningrad on July 4, 1946.

Alex and Nancy Herzog, from Boulder, Colorado, will discuss the impact on ethnic Germans of the 1941-1944 Nazi occupation of Southwest Ukraine. It is a story you will not want to miss. This program will be held jointly with Germans from Russia Oregon - Washington (GROW) at the German American Society building at 5626 N. E. Alameda, Portland, OR 97213.

I know you’ll agree that this is a terrific line-up of programs. Please mark these dates on your calendar and invite your family members and friends to attend. Everyone is welcome!

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

New look...Wonderful content.

**Billings AHSGR Convention**

**Upcoming AHSGR Oregon Chapter Events**
- April 26 - **Tanja Schell** - Powerful Voices on the Margins: A Presentation on Family, Oral, and Archival History
- May 23 - **Dr. Eric Schmaltz** - Kaliningrad Enclave
- June 21 - **Alex and Nancy Herzog** - Impact of German Deportations
- July 12-19 - **AHSGR National Convention** - Billings, Montana
- August 8 - **Chapter Picnic** at Camp Emerald Forest

For current & Upcoming **CVGS** Exhibits and Events, check out
[http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/exhibits_events.cfm](http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu/exhibits_events.cfm)
**SPOTLIGHT • THE KAMMERZELLS**

Harold and Loretta—Childhood Sweethearts.

By Thelma Wiest

Harold and Loretta Kammerzell are long time members of AHSGR and have been instrumental in volunteering and working to keep the chapter going and especially in helping present a very interesting Christmas program just this last December. We want to think them for all the hard work they have done. What they like most about AHSGR is meeting others of the same background and learning more about their ancestry.

Loretta was born in Portland March 16, 1936 to John and Katherine (Miller) Kniss. She lived in the same house just northwest of the Albina district from the time she was five months old until she married at age 20. Loretta was baptized as an infant in the 2nd German Congregational Church in Portland, located at N.E. 8th and Skidmore, later confirmed there and married Harold in that same church.

Harold and Loretta were childhood sweethearts (yes, that’s true!) They knew each other in grade school and high school and a few years later, on August 19, 1956, they married. At this point in time they have been married 58 ½ years.

Loretta’s father, John Kniss, was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. His father, Loretta’s grandfather, was born in Norka, in the Volga area and his family immigrated in the early 1900’s to Calgary. Loretta’s mother was born near Greeley, Colorado and her parents came from Norka and Dietel. They immigrated from Russia in 1901 to Colorado. Loretta’s maternal grandmother moved to Portland when she married her third husband. Unfortunately her first two husbands were killed in accidents. Loretta does not know from where in Germany her ancestors originated.

Loretta’s parents lived in the Albina district before they married and then moved northwest of Albina. Her parents owned the same home for 72 years! During those years Loretta went to Ockley Green Grade School and later to Jefferson High School. After graduation she worked for Dr. J. Bildstein in his downtown office at 6th and Alder. She worked at the reception desk, did billing and general office work.

Loretta’s father began working at age 15 at the B.P. John Furniture Company; later he worked as a welder in the ship yards, and finally owned his own garbage business from 1943 to 1975.

Loretta lived in Portland her first 28 years, eight of those after she and Harold got married, then they moved to Kent, WA for two years and finally to Battle Ground, WA where they have lived for 45 years.

Loretta has been a musician most of her life. She has been playing professionally since 1953 and is still actively playing piano and organ. Her husband Harold saw to it that she’d have an organ so she could play and enjoy the music at home. These days she also loves to cook, enjoys gardening, needlework, knitting—and day-dreaming!

Harold was born August 15, 1934 in Portland, OR to Harold Kammerzell, Sr. and Emma (Stahle) Yuckert. Harold’s father was born in Ritzville, WA and his mother in Tacoma, WA.
Harold’s grandparents were all born in the Volga region. His paternal grandfather, John Kammerzell was born in Frank and his grandmother in Grimm. They came to America in 1905 and settled in Ritzville, WA. In 1927 they moved to Portland to the Albina district.

Both his maternal grandparents, Conrad Yuckert, and Alice (Rahn) Yuckert were born in Kolb. When they left the Volga area they first went to Argentina for two years and then immigrated to the U.S., living first in Tacoma, WA. Alice Yuckert’s first husband died in 1918 after which she married Ed Adam Schleining in 1922. Later they moved to Portland joining other Volga German families in the Albina district.

Harold has no knowledge from where in Germany his ancestors moved to the Volga region in Russia.

Harold worked as a mechanical engineer for PACCAR for 45 years. He first worked in design, then management, and retired as vice president.

Harold claims he spends his time taking care of Loretta. Of course we all know it’s just the other way around! He also says there is nothing else of interest to report about himself so I guess we’ll just have to pretend to believe him.

Harold and Loretta have four children. Pamela is 57 years old and director of a pre-school in Dallas, TX. Douglas is 55 years old and the Fire Chief in Redmond, WA. Heidi is 52 years old and an elementary school teacher in Evergreen-Vane, WA. Derek is 46 years old and Police Chief in Kent, WA. He served two years in Iraq. Harold and Loretta also have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren!

Harold and Loretta now attend the Glenwood Community Church in Vancouver where Loretta is involved in the music programs. They both grew up attending the 2nd German Congregational Church in Portland and in recent years were part of a committee to organize two reunion dinners for past members of the 2nd German Congregational Church. Those reunions were attended by about 200 guests.

We’re so happy to have Harold and Loretta as part of our membership group and look forward to many more years of their participation.

**Donaudampfschifffahrtselektrizitätätenhauptbetriebswerkbauunterbeamtengesellschaft**

Although longer words are possible - (yes, they are!), this word, with 79 letters was officially named the longest published German word by the Guinness World Records in 1996. Since the Spelling Reform, it now has officially 80 letters due to an additional 'f'. In English it means: 'Association of sub-ordinate officials of the head office management of the Danube steamboat electrical services.' This word refers to an alleged sub-department of an Austrian Shipping Company - the 'Donaudampfschifffahrtsgesellschaft' - which operated on the River Danube in pre-war Vienna. There is, however, no official evidence it ever existed.
Excerpts from an 1892 publication:

**In the Track of the Russian Famine**
The Personal Narrative of a Journey through the Famine Districts of Russia
by E. A. Brayley Hodgetts (1859-1932)
Published 1892

The German colonists on the Volga number about 300,000. They may be roughly classified as Protestants, Catholics, and Mennonites. With the exception of the last mentioned, they all came over during the latter part of the 18th century, in response to a manifesto issued by the Empress Catherine. In that proclamation Catherine promised them certain privileges, the most notable of which were immunity from military service, self-government, and religious freedom. These privileges were granted "na vek," which means "for ever," but the "vek" of the Empress Catherine has recently been construed to signify a century only. There is just enough ambiguity about the expression to admit of this interpretation.

When universal military service on the German system was introduced into Russia, the German colonists were told they must either serve or go. Many of them...chose the latter alternative, and departed. The next thing to go was the self-government. The colonists used to be governed by a sort of elective council, which met at Saratov, and was called the "Office". This body controlled the vagaries of the village commune. The "Office" has been abolished, and the Zemski Natchalnik now reigns in its stead. The German colonists have thus been gradually brought under the controlling influence of Russian institutions. Even their religion is threatened now. Fresh encroachments upon their civil and religious liberty are of almost daily occurrence, and their independence may already be described as a thing of the past. The steady decline in the fertility of the soil, which has culminated in chronic famine, and the inhospitable attitude of the Government, have brought home to the colonists that they have in Russia no abiding city. They are therefore emigrating in large numbers to the United States.

The German colonists can only be described as so many nineteenth century Rip van Winkles. Imagine a body of men taken out of the eighteenth century, carefully preserved and kept apart from the influences of modern progress, latter-day customs and ideas, and you have the German colonists of the Volga. They all look like figures out of old German woodcuts, with their solemn, sallow, obstinate, clean shaven faces, their hair dressed like a periwig, their gaunt forms, and their curious old fashioned garments. They all wear stocks, and they are all very dignified and stately. They have still the same furniture which they brought with them more than a hundred years ago, and sleep in funereal four-post bedsteads. Their women, when young, have the pure and beautiful faces of the Gretchen type.

To come amongst these people in the midst of the semi-Oriental Russians is a great surprise to the traveler, and fills him with wonder. Their cottages are substantially built, and contain large and lofty rooms, yet the family generally sleeps in one room, the heavily curtained four-posters - of which I have seen as many as four in one room — securing almost as much privacy as so many separate apartments. The condition of the colonists is really worse than that of the Russian peasants in other districts, inasmuch as the former have no natural protectors or guardians. The estate owners to whom the Russian peasants formerly belonged, still take a sort of patriarchal interest in them, looking upon them as their own people, and helping them in their distress. But the German colonists have no one to whom they can look, except a few wealthy employers of labor. For hundreds of miles you can travel in the steppes which bound the Volga, without coming upon a country gentleman's seat. The colonists have a feeling that they are being left alone to die. No hand is stretched out to save them.
Even the Government aid, scanty enough in all conscience, has been meted out more grudgingly and in smaller quantities to them than to others. The Red-Cross Society has passed them by altogether. This is how it comes about that, while the inhabitants of the Russian villages in Saratov are fed, the Germans are starving. The moral the Russians point is different. They maintain that the existing state of things is an argument in favor of the Russianization of the colonists.

As you enter a German colonial village you become aware of an extraordinary odor, heavy and unpleasant, which seems to pervade the whole neighborhood. This is the odor of burnt manure, which the German colonist uses as fuel. In the beginning of the century, when Samara and Saratov were virgin soil, an ingenious peasant invented a method of turning dung into bricks for fuel, and got a gold medal for his idea, instead of being hung for it. At present, the German colonist burns his manures, and puts nothing into the land, yet he wonders at its barrenness! It was touching, on entering the cottages, to see the industry of the inhabitants. All were busy, working for their very lives. Most of the colonists on what is called the mountainous side of the Volga are weavers, and by dint of very great labor they are able to earn about 6s. a month. This is not paid to them in cash, but in kind. They are all hopelessly in debt to their employers or sweaters, and these, of course, take full advantage of the circumstance.

The only educated people amongst them are the clergy and the schoolmasters, and these have not received any salary for years. It is sad to see young children, with pale faces and glistening eyes, working at the looms like galley slaves. In one cottage that I entered, the owner, an old man of sixty-five, was lying in a semi-unconscious condition in his bed. He had not tasted food for several days, and his mind was wandering. In some villages I saw men, women, and children sitting almost naked, unable to go out to seek work because they had no clothes, and excluded from the receipt of Government aid because they had a handicraft. This is, indeed, the worst feature in the administration of relief.

The Government helps the absolutely destitute, whom it is scarcely worthwhile to save, and leaves those who are industrious and able-bodied to starve. In the Russian villages this arbitrary arrangement is tempered by the dishonesty of the mir but the German colonists retain the sterling qualities which they brought with them from the Fatherland. They are sober, virtuous, honest, and industrious. Much of their present helplessness is due to the fact that they were originally handicraftsmen and tradesmen, and knew nothing about agriculture. They consequently adopted the methods common in Russia, and hence, instead of improving the Russians, they are gradually themselves sinking down to the same level.

Notwithstanding the honesty of the colonists on the Volga, crimes of violence are becoming common, and several clergymen informed me that burglarious attempts upon their own houses are of frequent occurrence. One Protestant clergyman told me that he had, only a few days before, found a corpse lying in the road, with marks of blood all round. No solution of the mystery had yet been discovered. Another clergyman warned me solemnly against driving at night. I had just driven sixty miles in my sledge. The Volga itself is a dangerous highway at night. Even the large caravans of merchandise which travel along its course are accompanied by escorts of armed men. The camel is a familiar beast of burden on the Volga and throughout Samara and Orenburg. It is very curious to see these graceful animals stepping daintily along through the snow, and drawing enormous loads.

In the course of my drive down the Volga I had another unpleasant adventure. I was travelling alone, with only my coachman for company. As we drove along over the frozen river the ice under us made all sorts of mysterious noises. On our left were steep and barren rocks, on our right the open country, with bushes and underwood. A dull evening promised to turn into a dark night, and we had thirty miles still to cover before we got to the village which I hoped to reach.
Suddenly we met, gliding along with a sort of cat-like agility, a strange individual in rags, with a musket of quaint construction slung over his shoulder, and a stout cudgel in his hand. He was walking towards us. As we passed he stood on one side, and humbly took off his cap. There was something about the fellow which did not please me, and so I looked round to see whether he had not climbed up behind, but he was continuing his journey. We had driven about half an hour, and covered about four miles more, when my yamstikh got down to readjust the harness. All at once he turned round, and asked someone, apparently behind me, how far it was to the village we were bound for. I looked behind and saw the stealthy wayfarer with his gun. How he got there, I don't know. He must have run after the sledge and got up behind with the intention of knocking me on the head as soon as we were within whistling distance of his comrades, for I had been told that the Volga was infested with bands of armed robbers, and half an hour later, when it had got quite dark, we heard ominous whistles from the bank, but fortunately met with no adventures. The man with the gun looked at me hard, and I looked at him. He then carefully eyed the sleeve of my fur coat, and perhaps saw the end of my revolver peeping out, for he said, "God grant that you may arrive safely at your destination." He then left us. This time I kept a careful watch, to see that he did not climb up again, but I think he had understood my look. The famine has made the people desperate, and, though they are not of a blood-thirsty disposition, they will often murder for the sake of a few rubles.

On the Samara side of the Volga the condition of the people is worse and more helpless than on the Saratov side. There they have no weaving, no industries of any kind, and are simply lying down to starve. The following figures, which I obtained from a clergyman, show the condition of a typical village in Samara, and speak for themselves. The normal population of the village was 7,856, but of this number, on the 1st of January last, 2,765 were absent from various causes, while 78 were reported ill. At the corresponding period of 1886, the village was in a prosperous condition. All the people were well clad, had plenty of fuel, and possessed adequate supplies of bread and meat. There were also plenty of fodder for the cattle and horses. At the beginning of the present year, about one-third of the total number of families had absolutely no fuel, and an equal proportion had hardly any clothing, their only protection from the cold being a few miserable rags. Between the 1st of January 1886, and the 1st of January 1892, the number of horses had diminished from 3,739 to 1,667, the number of cows from 2,385 to 602, and the number of sheep and goats from 6,526 to 1,962. At present some 1,250 persons in this one village are dependent for their subsistence upon the relief they receive from the Zemstvo. With regard to the prospects of next harvest, they are blacker than ever, as may be seen from the slender stock of grain that has been, and is available, for seed. The relative position in the village, as between the two periods compared, stood thus (a "dessiatine" being about 2 3/4 acres):—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan. 1, 1886</th>
<th>Jan. 1, 1892</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of dessiatines for which seed in hand</td>
<td>14,300</td>
<td>886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of dessiatines sown</td>
<td>3,850</td>
<td>1,503</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This means that some 15,761 dessiatines of grain-growing land, or, in English measurement, over 40,000 acres, must, in this single district of Samara, lie fallow in the present year for lack of seed. The calculation, if extended, even in a greatly modified form, to the famine-stricken districts generally, yield results which are positively appalling. Since the month of September, the live stock of the village referred to above has been diminished by the loss of 611 horses, 162 oxen, 564 cows, 201 calves, and 2,500 sheep and goats—in all, 4,938 head of cattle. In addition to these losses, the indebtedness of the community has been increased during the past six years by 59,164 rubles. In 1886, it was 13,216 rubles; it now stands at 72,380 rubles.
In Messer I was shown an old man of seventy-five, who had walked ten miles, carrying an enormous load of cotton which he and his family had woven. In repayment he received a bag of flour, weighing 36 lbs., and a few other necessaries, and with his fresh load he proceeded to walk back. His horses had been sold, and nobody would lend him one.

The Germans manage to get some nourishment out of a kind of tea made from the wild grass of the Steppes, and mixed with Spanish licorice. In many of the villages this is all they have to live upon. From further observations, I have come to the conclusion that the only way to rescue the German colonists from their present hopeless position is to assist them to emigrate. There are 300,000 of them. If 100,000 could be got over to Canada or the United States, the others would follow. All relief that may be administered to them here will only be palliative. The land is exhausted, the Volga is silting up, the climate is changing, and the only hope of salvation for this fine race of German colonists lies in their removal from this inhospitable country. If they remain, those who do not die of starvation will be gradually deprived of their religion, their language, and everything else that is distinctive of their race or of the land of their birth.

BRUNO

A Young Boy's Survival in War-torn Europe

The Oregon Chapter Meeting at CVGS at Concordia University was a well-attended meeting last month. That really doesn't surprise me...and I'm so sorry if you missed this opportunity.

Bruno Reule, a long-time member of the Oregon Chapter of AHSGR and a survivor of the atrocities shared by many of our German ancestors in Russia in the mid 1900’s, shared his family story during this period of time. His presentation was sincere, thorough, and an emotional experience for all of those in attendance, as well as Bruno himself. Bruno and his wife currently live in Portland, Oregon and are active in our organization.

The amazing thing about this story is that Bruno told his story to James Estes and a book was published and copyrighted by Bruno in 2000. At that time, many members of the AHSGR purchased this very well written story of a friend to us all that once read, will always be in our memory. A number of attendees purchased the book at the meeting.

We would like to take the opportunity to make this book available to all who wish to purchase it, so at each AHSGR, Oregon Chapter, meeting, we will have a supply available at the check-in table. We have an ample inventory and the money will go to support the Oregon Chapter. Should there be a number of requests by those who are unable to attend the meetings, we would be more than happy to make arrangements to mail them to you.

It isn't often that we of German-Russian heritage have an opportunity to share a life changing event by one of our members...so we should take the opportunity.

Shirley Hurrell
Life Member - AHSGR
Volunteer - CVGS
The SS Brandenburg
Written and researched by Margaret Odrowaz-Sypniewska

The SS Brandenburg was built in 1902 for the North German Lloyd Lines of Bremen by Vulkan in Vegesack (a northern district of the city of Bremen). It was a 7,532 gross ton ship with double masts and a speed of approximately 13 knots. It had a capacity for 60 second-class passengers and 1,660 third-class passengers. First and second class passengers were called "ladies and gentlemen." Steerage passengers were jammed together much like cargo down below.

Early in 1902, the two great German lines, Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd reached a 10-year agreement with J. Pierpont Morgan that affiliated them and brought joint policies to avoid undue competition. J. P. Morgan was a renowned banker, railroad tycoon, and a yachtsman. His banking empire boosted assets of $162 million in 1900. In April 1902, Morgan announced the formation of the Mercantile Marine Company with a $170 million capital, and in 1902, the North German Lloyd lines carried 32,770 passengers from central Europe. Peak years of travel to the United States of America were 1907 and 1908, when emigration topped one million. Virtually all those traveling in "steerage" (3rd class) were emigrants. The price they paid was $50.00 in 1910, as compared to $4,000.00 for the cost of a luxury suite. Some years there was a 10% mortality rate because of the unsanitary and overcrowded conditions. However, the German lines were cleaner than others, even though the North German Lloyd (from Bremen in 1913), logged 16,268 in 1st class; 28,311 in second class, and 131,081 in steerage to Ellis Island, New York; as recorded on January 1, 1914 (in 126 trips across the Atlantic). By 1920 strict quotas were established and ships were required to have safer facilities with less crowding.

The SS Brandenburg was launched on its first voyage on December 21, 1901. She sailed on her maiden voyage to New York on March 22, 1902. My grandfather, Johann Conrad Frank (Con) was aboard this ship when it landed in Baltimore April 19, 1905. He was naturalized June 2, 1914. -Michael Frank
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
A Poem of Germans from Russia

Jetzt ist die Zeit und Stunde da,
Das wir ziehn nach Amerika.
Viel tausend Seelen Gehts dort gut;
Das tröstet uns und gibt uns Muth.

Die Wagen stehn schon vor der Tür
Mit Weib und Kinder Ziehen wir.
Die Pferde stehn schon angespannt,
Wir ziehen in ein fremdes Land.

Ihr alle die mit uns verwandt,
Reicht uns zum letzten mal.
Ihr Freunde weinet nicht zu sehr,
Wir seh’n uns nun und nimmer mehr.

Seid alle männlich und seid stark,
Macht uns den Abschied nich zu hart.
Wir ziehen ja nicht aus der Welt.
Auch da ist Gott, der uns erhält.

Now is the time and hour has come,
We draw to America.
Many thousand souls work well there;
This comforts us and gives us courage.

The wagons stand before the door
With their wives and children, we pull.
The horses stand already tense,
We are moving to a foreign country.

All of which is related to us,
It passes us for the last time.
Your friends do not weep too much,
We see you now, and never more.

You are all like men, be strong,
Don’t make the farewell too hard for us.
We do not go from the world.
Also, there is God, and he has given us.

(Loose translation from several online translation programs)

(Second German Baptist - later Immanuel Baptist)
Steve Schreiber has just learned that another of the former Volga German churches, the Second German Baptist—later Immanuel Baptist Church is going to be converted into a duplex. Fortunately, the exterior of the church will be preserved. This church is located at NE Rodney and Morris.

:(

Zion Church
100th Anniversary celebration: September 7th, 2015 at 2pm.
Springtime

A time for birth and rejuvenation.
A time for animals and plants alike.
A time for love.

The spring scene shown above was taken from a 1909 calendar from Walla Walla, Washington. The young man closely resembles a dear relative I would have known in his later years. His cap looks familiar too!

Give me thy hand, in faithful token
That thou my friend will always be;
Now never may the chain be broken,
Which links my heart this day to thee;

One place of prayer, our passions stifling,
One home where pleasant hours shall flee,
One joy, our bosoms gently thrilling,
One heaven, at last, for thee and me.
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/.

Genealogy Tip:
Now is the time to go through old photographs and make certain they are properly identified!

!!! 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!
Eben Glace (Strawberry dumplings)

4 c. Flour
2 eggs
1 c. hot water
Strawberries (as many as needed. Use only fresh berries)
½ - 1 c. dried bread crumbs

Make a dough and let rest. Divide the dough and roll one ¼ at a time. Roll as for pie dough. Cut into 4 inch squares. Top each square with sweetened fresh strawberries. And ½ tsp of dried bread crumbs per square. Bring the corners of the dough up and pinch together. Pinch them tightly lest they leak. Drop into boiling water and cook 5 - 7 minutes. Drain and cover with cream and melted butter.

My grandparents came from Norka. This is what they ate and what I grew up eating.

Courtesy of Marcia Staunton - Portland, Oregon.

This is also what my Grandmother Maria Catharina Knaub made many times at her home in Walla Walla, Washington. The taste of these little gems have forever become one of my favorite treats!

-Michael Frank

Camp Emerald Forest

For August, the chapter’s regular meeting will be replaced by a picnic at Camp Emerald Forest on August 8. Plans are being made now to ensure another smooth and marvelous experience.

We are the chosen.

In each family, there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts, but instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the storytellers of the tribe. —Ancestry.com
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.
### May 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 Chapter Board Meeting 10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mothers’ Day</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>19 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23 Chapter Program - Dr. Eric Schmaltz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/31</td>
<td>25 Memorial Day</td>
<td>26 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Fathers’ day Chapter Program - Alex and Nancy Herzog</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30 CVGS hours 9:30 - 3:00</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</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.

Chapter Officers

President:
Steve Schreiber
Steven.Schreiber@gmail.com
503-774-9753

First Vice President:
Bob Thom
503-635-6651
503-978-4466
bobthorn@hotmail.com

Second Vice President:
Michael Frank
360-601-7361

Secretary:
Mary Burbank
503-639-4381

Treasurer:
Jim Holstein
503-367-1757
Jimholstein@gmail.com

Directors

Roger Burbank
Herb Femling
Harold Kammerzell
Ed Wagner
Bill Wiest
Thelma Wiest

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