



AHSGR Oregon Chapter Newsletter

Chronicle Unserer Leute

Volume 38, Issue 4
July-August 2017



Mark Your Calendar

Enjoy your Summer!

No July or August Board Meetings

No Chapter Programs July thru September

Sunday, August 27, GROW Picnic - 11am to 4 pm - Willamette Park in West Linn, OR

August 28 - 31 - National AHSGR Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Catherine II, the Great
Empress of Russia

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

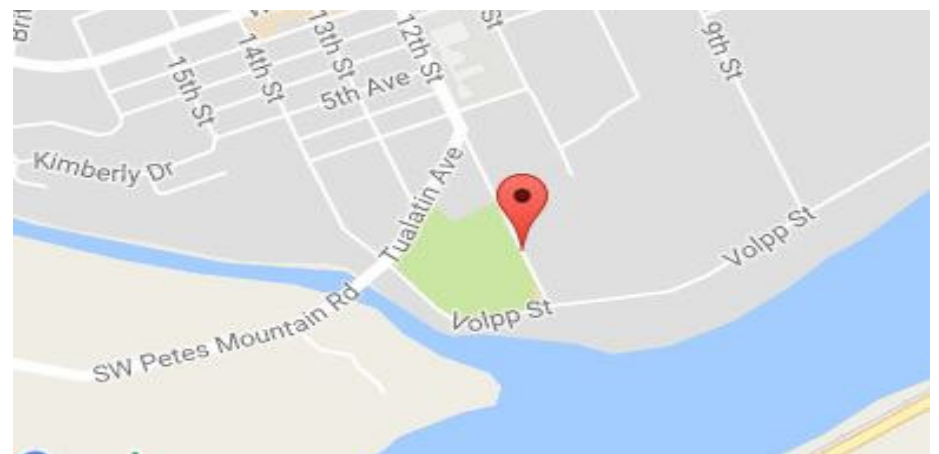
oregonahsgr.org



2017 is the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the majority of original Volga-German villages in Russia.

GROW PICNIC - SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 FROM 11 A.M TO 4 P.M

OREGON CHAPTER MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE GERMANS FROM RUSSIA OREGON AND WASHINGTON (GROW) PICNIC WHICH WILL BE HELD AT WILLAMETTE PARK IN WEST LINN (NOT PORTLAND). WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



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President's Message for July/August

Steve Schreiber, President

I hope that your summer is off to a great start and you are enjoying our glorious Pacific Northwest weather. After a long winter of gray and wet here in Portland, I am savoring the sunny and warm weather.

We've had several great programs the past few months. Sherry Loos Pawelko, the Executive Director of AHSGR International, presented to our chapter and gave a great overview of the work that is being done by the staff in Lincoln. It was great to have Sherry in Portland for her first visit.



In June, Joan Porter shared a presentation about her Volga German family history and discussed her work as an artist. Joan also shared some of her artwork which was a delight for all of us. Thank you Joan!

We do not have Oregon Chapter programs planned this summer, but we do hope that you will attend the AHSGR International Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from August 28-31. The conventions are a great place to learn more about our German-Russian heritage and meet some really great people. I hope to see you there!

All Oregon Chapter members have been invited to attend the Germans from Russia of Oregon and Washington (GROW) picnic on August 27 from 11 am to 4 pm at Willamette Park in West Linn (not the Willamette Park in Portland!). This will be a fun event and a great opportunity to meet people in our sister organization. We'll have a joint meeting with GROW in November. More on that event in an upcoming newsletter.

Roger Burbank volunteered to chair our Nominating Committee. Our annual elections are held each October and we will have several vacancies to fill on the chapter Board of Directors. Serving on the board is fun and **not** very time consuming. We need new board members to ensure that the chapter continues into the future. Please don't wait for others to step up, be one of the first! Contact Roger if you have an interest in serving. You can reach him at: **burby9@yahoo.com**.

I wish you all a great summer. Be safe and I'll look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!

Steve Schreiber

President, Oregon Chapter of AHSGR

Website: www.oregonahsgr.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/AHSGR.Oregon/

Don Ginter's Passing

I wanted to let you and the Germans from Russia Historical Society know that my dad, **Don Ginter**, passed away on Thursday, June 15th. Cards, and written good memories of my dad, would be appreciated for my mom and can be sent to: Irene Ginter, 21711 NE 189th Street, Brush Prairie, WA 98606. (Don's daughter, Michelle, worked with Steve Schreiber at the Port of Portland).

Michelle Walker

Rita Biggs

Fellow member Florence Bauder informed us that her daughter, member Rita Biggs had a serious accident in May. She is reportedly doing well now recovering at home. We'd like to wish her a full and speedy recovery. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Oregon Chapter AHSGR

Discontinuation of LDS Family History Microfilm

On September 1, 2017, FamilySearch will discontinue its microfilm distribution services. (The last day to order microfilm will be on August 31, 2017.) The change is the result of significant progress made in FamilySearch's microfilm digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology.

- Online access to digital images of records allows FamilySearch to reach many more people, faster and more efficiently.
- FamilySearch is a global leader in historic records preservation and access, with billions of the world's genealogical records in its collections.
- Over 1.5 million microfilms (ca. 1.5 billion images) have been digitized by FamilySearch, including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide.
- The remaining microfilms should be digitized by the end of 2020, and all new records from its ongoing global efforts are already using digital camera equipment.
- Family history centers will continue to provide access to relevant technology, premium subscription services, and digital records, including restricted content not available at home.

Digital images of historical records can be accessed today in 3 places on FamilySearch.org under Search.

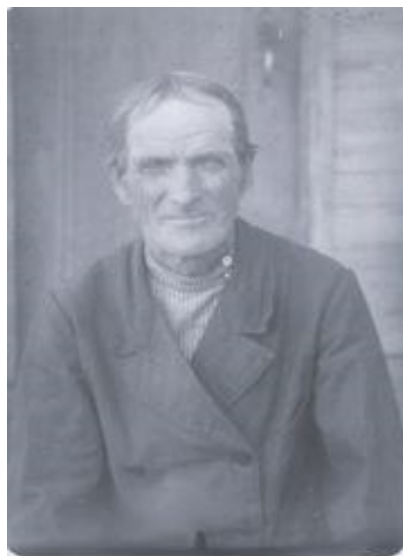
- Records include historical records indexed by name or organized with an image browse.
- Books include digital copies of books from the Family History Library and other libraries.
- Catalog includes a description of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, etc.) in the FamilySearch collection.

When approved by priesthood leaders, centers may continue to maintain microfilm collections already on loan from FamilySearch after microfilm ordering ends. Centers have the option to return microfilm that is available online or otherwise not needed. As more images are published online, centers may reevaluate whether to retain microfilm holdings.

My Volga German Grandparents

By Jim Holstein

I've been an Oregon Chapter member for several years and board member (Treasurer) for four years now. I thought it was about time to properly introduce my dad's Volga-German roots. What follows is a (very) condensed version of my dad's family history.



Friedrich Holstein
(my great-grandfather)

Dad's name was John Henry Holstein. He was named after his mother's father (John Henry Bischoff). He went by Henry or, in his younger days, "Hank".

Dad was the 4th of 5 children, born in Sugar City, Idaho in 1923. His parents were farmers. His father was Gottfried Holstein. Gottfried was born in 1890 in the Volga village of Galka. His parents were Friedrich and Katherine "Katie" Holstein. Holstein was Katie's maiden name as well. They would have been cousins of some distance; descended from the original settlers, Jacob and Elizabeth (Widmann) Holstein from Schützingen, Germany which is near Stuttgart. Jacob and Elizabeth married in what is now Schleswig-Holstein while they were part of the Denmark settlers.

Katie's brother (also named Gottfried) had moved to Canada in 1903. Ten years later, Grandpa (an only child after his younger brother was killed by a horse as a toddler) left his parents behind and immigrated to Canada to live with his uncle in Winnipeg. Apparently his mother was not willing to leave the burial place of her younger son.

My grandmother, Maria Bischoff, was born in 1896 in a *Wiesenseite* Volga village of Neu-Weimar. Her parents were Johann Heinrich Bischoff and Catherine Elizabeth Neiwirth. Her grandparents had migrated to Neu-Weimar from Dobrinka. This Bischoff family followed Catherine's uncle, Jacob Weimer, to Sugar City, Colorado in 1905. The oldest daughter, Eugenia (Agnes), had married Georg Klauser shortly before they left. He didn't want to leave his elderly parents, so they stayed in Russia where he died in WWI and she suffered through the famines. Tragically, Grandma's younger brother died in 1906 shortly after arriving in Colorado and her father died in 1907 after the family moved to Kansas. Her father was buried in Deerfield, Kansas in what had been an unmarked grave for over 100 years before my cousin Stan Hinckley visited and got the cemetery to find old burial maps to locate the plot where he was buried. Stan paid for a headstone a few years ago which was installed just days before I was due to visit. So I was the first family member to see it.



Johann Heinrich and Catherine (Neiwirth) Bischoff
(my great-grandparents)

Catherine and her children soon followed the sugar beet industry to Sugar City, Idaho where they laid their roots down for good. Their story was featured in the Summer 1986 edition of the AHSGR Journal in an article written by the daughter-in-law of my grandmother's brother Henry.

In 1915, Grandpa heard about a community of German-Russians in southeastern Idaho and decided to leave his Uncle's home to journey into America. He started out working in a sugar factory for a while before he went to work for a local cattleman. It wasn't long before Grandpa and Grandma were married - March 10th, 1916.

In the 1920's while Prohibition was still in effect, Grandpa and his brother-in-law, Henry Bischoff, made whiskey together. At some point they managed to blow up the whiskey still. They loaded the still onto a sleigh and took it out to a blacksmith to get it fixed. The blacksmith also happened to be the sheriff. They gave him a pint of whiskey for his help. He told them, "Don't tell my wife, I told her I came out here to shoe some horses!"

In 1939, my uncle Ed was married to Anna Kerbs. He decided to move to Montana to be closer to her family. Most of the rest of Dad's family went with him, intending to rent a farm around Great Falls where Ann's brother and sister lived. My uncle Fred initially stayed in Idaho. They made the trip in January of that year. They loaded all their furniture, Ed's furniture, and some machinery into a crate that got loaded onto a boxcar.

They ended up on a farm just west of Conrad (which is an hour north of Great Falls) where they farmed sugar beets. Later, they rented a farm from the owners of a creamery where they started milking the cows and selling the milk to the creamery.

Around 1948, Grandpa and Dad bought 160 acres northwest of town which is where my grandparents lived out the rest of their lives with my Dad who never left home. Grandpa died in 1959 and Grandma in 1962. The next year, a (young!) new teacher from Akron, Ohio arrived in town and promptly snatched the bachelor up. Mom and Dad married in December, 1963 - just three months after having met.

While I never got to meet my grandparents, a little bit of their spirit lives on. When I was in high school, Dad got a craving for bierocks and taught us how to make them. I was the baker in the family, so it was my job to make the bread dough. Just a few years ago, Dad gave me his mother's two glass pie dishes. She baked all kinds of pies in them. I mostly stick to rhubarb.

married to Anna Kerbs. He decided to move to Montana to be closer to her family.



Henry (Dad) with siblings Ed, Alvina, Fred, and Lee standing behind my grandparents sometime in the late 1940's

Volga-German Villages - 250th Anniversaries (1767-2017)

Dietel	July 1	Bettinger	August 3	Biberstein	August 20
Grimm	July 1	Kind	August 3	Rothammel	August 21
Huck	July 1	Beckerdorf	August 3	Stephan	August 24
Bangert	July 1	Philipsfeld	August 3	Walter	August 25
Dehler	July 1	Schönchen	August 3	Hölzel	September 11
Jost	July 5	Susannental	August 3	Dreisnitz	September 16
Kutter	July 8	Wittman	August 3	Yagodnaya Polyana	
Schwab	July 8	Kratzke	August 7		September 16
Laub	July 12	Köhler	August 10		
Lauwe	July 12	Zug	August 10		
Näb	July 13	Schaffhausen	August 13	XXXXXX = Bergseite Village	
Urbach	July 13	Stahl	August 13		
Hummel	July 14	Norka	August 15		
Reinwald	July 14	Hockerburg	August 15		
Seelmann	July 15	Mueller	August 16		
Krasnoyar	July 20	Kraft	August 18		
Zürich	August 1	Sewald	August 20		
Beckerdorf	August 3	Basel	August 20		





The Center for Volga German Studies

Dear Friends of the Center for Volga German Studies,

We at the Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon, would like to extend our gratitude to all of you who have already supported us. Founded in 2004, the CVGS is the only academically-based Volga German research center in the world. The CVGS library and climate-controlled archive house thousands of materials related to Volga German history and culture.

The CVGS has had a very busy year! The Center assisted over 570 visitors from 8 different countries with their research. On our Facebook page, we correspond with 2,100 followers from 45 countries. We sponsored conferences in 10 different states with a combined total 780 registrants in attendance and purchased \$36,000 worth of documents from the Russian archives that will open doors to our family histories.

With your generous support, the CVGS can help preserve the heritage, history, and traditions of the Volga Germans for generations to come. Please visit <http://www.cu-portland.edu/give-cvgs> to make your tax deductible gift to the CVGS today.

We wish you great joy and happiness during the year!

Best regards,

Steve Schreiber
Interim Director, Center for Volga German Studies



CONCORDIA
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The 2017 AHSGR Convention

Plans are underway for the 2017 AHSGR Convention, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Milwaukee Monday-Thursday August 28-31.

The Hyatt Regency is conveniently located in downtown Milwaukee, within walking distance of many local attractions, including nationally famous German restaurants and a German sausage store.



The Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, a distinctive feature of the downtown Milwaukee skyline with its circular rooftop ballroom, is the site of the 2017 AHSGR convention, Aug. 28-31.

See <http://www.ahsgr.org> for more details.

The program's theme is "The Coming Storm," referring to the Communist Revolution and Civil War. It will focus on the life of the colonies from 1763 to 1917 and how the Russian Germans reacted to the coming storm.

Topics will include:

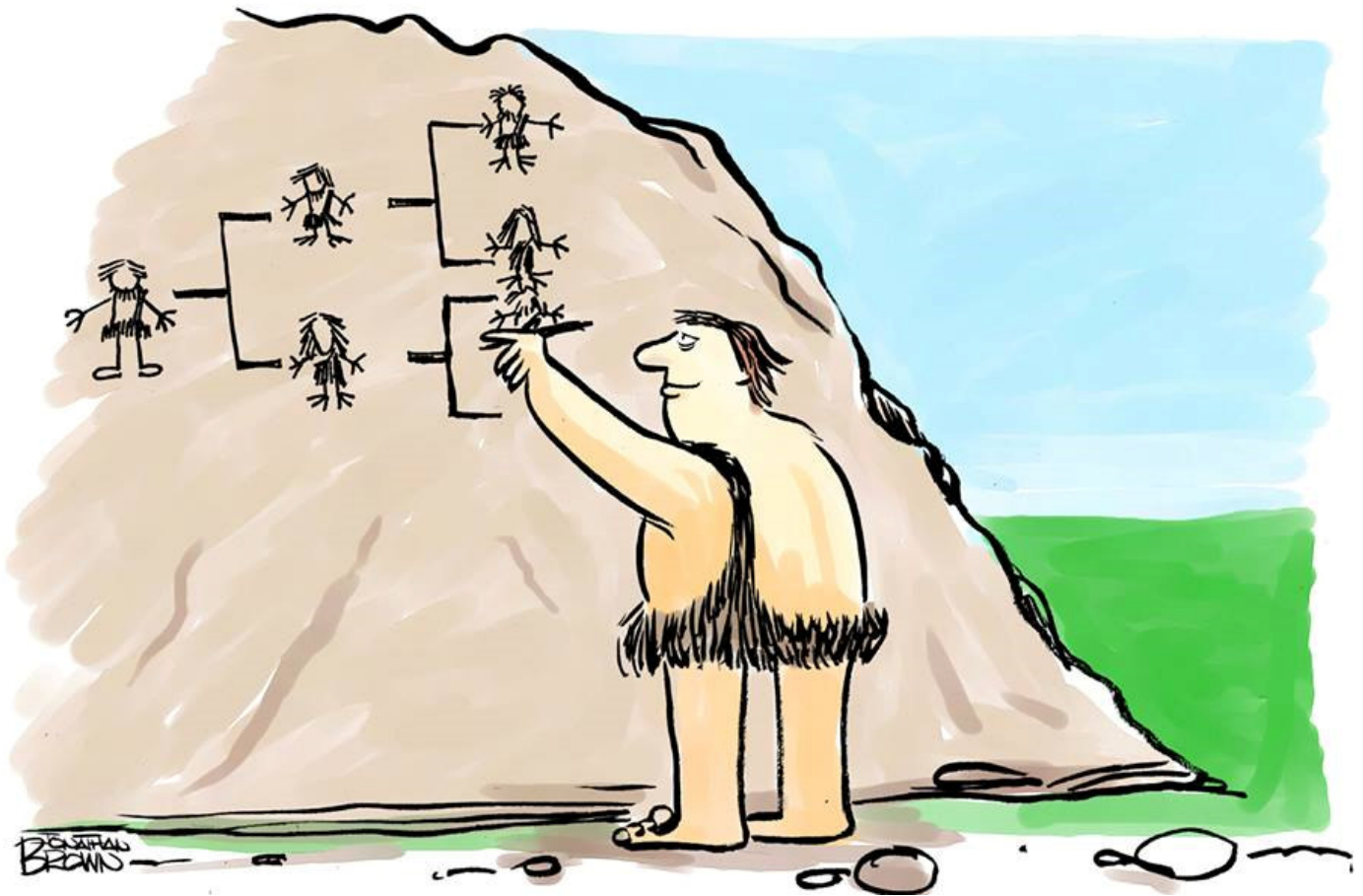
- Village area discussions
- Genealogical research using online resources
- Basics of DNA genealogy
- Overview of German colonization of the Russian Empire
- Russian Germans in the Tsarist Army and their involvement in the revolution
- German colonization of Wisconsin
- German language newspapers in the Milwaukee area
- Russian German settlements in Wisconsin
- Railroads in the development of Wisconsin
- History of breweries in the area



Several videos will be shown, including "Schmeckfest," "The Making of Milwaukee," and a Biel film. Ethnic entertainment will include folk dancing and singing.

Plan now to join other AHSGR members at the convention in Milwaukee and to renew old friendships and establish new ones. Every effort will be made to make this a rewarding experience for our younger generations.

The First Genealogist



Courtesy of Ancestry

Brent Mai Seminars

The Volga German Institute at Fairfield University is hosting a 2017 seminar series in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the Volga German colonies. The programs are different at each location. Please join us for one or more of these events:

Chicago, Illinois (July 22)

Fort Collins, Colorado (September 16)

Topeka, Kansas (September 24)

Calgary, Alberta (October 21)

Fresno, California (November 4)

Minneapolis, Minnesota (December 2)

Tours to Russia (August 4-21)

Hays, Kansas (September 23)

Fairfield, Connecticut (October 7-8)

Edmonton, Alberta (October 22)

Pine Island, New York (November 11)

For additional information about each event, please check the website: vgi.fairfield.edu/events

Questions? Please contact Jill at 203.254.4000 ext. 2648

jmassari@fairfield.edu

Memories of Grandma

by Patricia Bethke Bing

Grandma (Mary Frank Lind) loved Kautz. She never told me that she loved her home village in Russia, she didn't have to. Her fondness for Kautz was apparent when she talked about her childhood in Russia. Of course, I wish I had asked her more about it - spent more time learning about her life there and my family background. When we are young, we don't know what we will want to know later and often later is too late when we become aware of our desire to know more.

Grandma told me enough about Kautz and her early life for me to develop a strong desire to visit her home village. I don't have a specific memory of deciding that I wanted to see Kautz. In fact, I can't remember ever not having that desire. Before I can write about how it felt to realize a life long dream and visit Kautz, I have to write about my Grandma and her influence on me.

Grandma was a force unto herself and she influenced all of her grandchildren. I wanted to be like her, to be able to figure out how to do whatever was needed done even if I didn't have the right tools. And then to do it well. She was an improviser and she experimented. She was versatile and skillful at all the domestic arts as well as carpentry, animal husbandry, and gardening. We all wanted to learn how to cook her special delicious dishes just like she did. But, that was hard because she kept changing the way she made things and she never measured ingredients. Her food was always good, and always seemed to taste the same-or better than the last time, if that was possible. So, I was surprised one time when I was visiting with her and realized she was experimenting. That was an important realization.

Grandma was a bit of a perfectionist and that was more than a little intimidating at times. If our work didn't quite measure up, we knew it. I always wanted to please Grandma and to earn her seal of approval for my work. But, even if I didn't always achieve her high standard, I never doubted her love for me and for all of her grandchildren. Recently, my Aunt Martha (Grandma's third child, my Mom was her first) told me that I reminded her of Grandma. That was the greatest compliment I have ever gotten.

So, to Kautz. It is a beautiful place and I could imagine my Grandma in her girlhood, working with her father in the mill. It was one of her favorite things to do. She acknowledged that it was unusual for girls to want to learn "boy's work". But Mary Frank wanted to build, to work with wood. Her father taught her and her first project was a goat yoke. In my mind's eye I could see the girl with her goat in this beautiful place.

I could also imagine her cooking with her mom. Going to the well/spring for water and to the river to wash clothes. I could visualize her working in fields, gathering eggs, and milking her goat. Most importantly, I felt that I was in a place where she had been very happy and free to develop and learn. My Great Grandparents Frank must have been special to encourage?/permit? their daughter to be different and not be constrained by traditional cultural norms of behavior considered appropriate for young girls. Or maybe, they just gave up and decided she would do what she would do and that was that, so they may as well accept it.

Great Grandpa Frank never learned English and always wanted to return to the "Old Country". I brought back a bit of the "Old Country" with me to put on his grave, and on Grandma's too. Although Grandma was at home in America and was the matriarch of a very close knit and high achieving family. She was known far and wide for her many talents and her children always honored her and Grandpa. (I have limited this to Grandma because she was from Kautz and a Frank. Grandpa was also a remarkable person, but very different from Grandma in ways that were mostly complementary from my point of view, not always from Grandma's.)

Standing on the ground where Grandma had been and where she had developed her high standards and her strong and loving character was overwhelming. It was emotional overload. A part of me couldn't quite believe I was really there; that a life long dream had come true. I felt a pull to stay, I felt at home in a place that I have never been before and may never be again. I felt very blessed to be Mary Frank's granddaughter and to be surrounded by beauty and feel the presence of the good hard working people who called Kautz home.



NORKA, RUSSIA

Russian Name: Nekrasovo

The 250th Anniversary of its founding
is August 15, 2017



Kautz, Russia

Russian Name Werschinka

Founded May 20, 1767

Dietel, Russia

Happy 250th Anniversary!

Founded July 1, 1767

(Sister Village to Kautz, Russia)

AHSGR Oregon Chapter Membership Form

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

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

Membership Year 20____

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 serve 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:

Villages	Surnames
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Annual Dues:	\$25.00
Additional Donation:	
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$	

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

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

Questions? Contact Jim Holstein at oregonahsgr@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. (Federal Tax ID # 93-1313164).

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 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

August 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 GROW Picnic 11am - 4pm Willamette Park West Linn, Oregon	28 AHSGR Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin	29 AHSGR Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin	30 AHSGR Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin	31 AHSGR Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin		

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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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