

NORTHEAST KANSAS CHAPTER

of the American Historical Society

of Germans from Russia

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PROGRAM, DECEMBER 11, 2011

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia will host a pot luck lunch followed by a free performance by Santa Fe Singers, Sunday December 11, 2011 at Sacred Heart Church, 333 Freeman. The public is invited.

This address is different than our usual location. Pot luck meeting at 1 pm, with brief business meeting, followed at 2 pm by musical program.

Lucile Krische, Raymond Meier's sister deceased.

Lucile R. Krische, 91, of Topeka, died November 1, 2011 at Homestead Assisted Living. She was born in Topeka, Kansas on November 26, 1919 the daughter of Joseph C. J.C. and Elizabeth (Lambrecht) Meier. Lucile was a Reservations Clerk at St. Francis Hospital for 28 years, retiring in 1995. She taught piano and organ lessons and was a great baker who will be remembered for her pink cookies. Lucile also enjoyed gardening, sewing and playing cards. Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church where she began as an organist for the church in 1934 and played for over 70 years. She was also a member of the Altar Society, St. Anthonys Guild, St. Francis Auxiliary and the N.A.L.C. Ladies Auxiliary. Lucile married Edward Krische in Topeka, Kansas on October 8, 1946. He survives. She is survived by a daughter Carlotta Noonan and husband John of Naperville, Illinois, two grandchildren, Keith Noonan and Elizabeth Hall and husband Scott and one great grandson, Grant Hall. She is also survived by three brothers, Pete Meier, Raymond Meier and Robert Meier all of Topeka and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a son, Edward B. Krische Jr. in 1966, seven brothers, Nicholas, Hubert, Augie, Casper, Joe, Sylvester and Leonard, and one sister, Marie Weigel. Lucile will lie in state at Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home on Friday after 2:00 p.m. where rosaries will be prayed by the Altar Society at 5:30 p.m. and the Parish at 7:30 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Interment will follow in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Francis Hospital, the Franciscan Priests of Cincinnati, Ohio, or the Benedictine Convent in Clyde, Missouri and sent in care of Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home, 800 SW 6th Ave., Topeka, Kansas 66603.

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ROUNDUP OF KANSAS AHSGR CHAPTERS, 2011

On October 21 and 22nd, 2011 we attended the Roundup of Kansas AHSGR Chapters in Wichita. The two Keynote speakers were Dr. Bill Keel of Kansas University and Tatjana Schell from North Dakota State.

Dr Keel kept the audience engaged in exploring the 23 German language dialects in Kansas and challenged the audience to identify their locations based on several idioms of old German language.

Tatjana Schell is working on her PhD in English at North Dakota State. She was born in Volgograd, Russia in 1981 of parents born in Catholic Sewald, Russia. Her parents were exiled to Siberia in 1941 with the Volga Germans. After their return from Siberia, her parents moved to formerly Lutheran village of Frank, and pragmatically coexisted as Catholics with Protestants in the same village.

Tatjana moved to Munich to complete her studies. She provided very interesting videos of the former Stalingrad as well as the estates of the Czars. Tatjana plans to return to Germany once she completes her PhD, to be close to her family and friends. It was an interesting two days.

RUSSIA to ARGENTINA, to MEXICO, to TOPEKA

**"Little Russia" People Raise
\$500 to Send Friends.**

**Pay Passage From Mexico
City to Topeka.**

A LONG JOURNEY

**From Land of Czar to Mexico
Via South America.**

**Money Also Cabled to Canary
Islands.**

**[The Topeka State Journal]
Friday, June 9, 1911**

The sum of \$500 has been raised by the residents of "Little Russia" within the last day or two and has been sent to pay transportation to Topeka for friends en route here from Russia. About \$400 was sent to Jacob Applehans and Adam Artzer at Mexico the fragal, but generous people from party consists of the two men and their wives and about six children.

They have had a long journey in search of a better country. About a year ago they left Saratow, Russia, and landed in Buenos Ayers, Argentina, S. A. Now this city although considered one of the richest and most prosperous in the world, was no place for the immigrants. Their friends there could not make them have patience. Poor crops and little work were the rule. Then the disappointed people heard of Mexico. Sure, this was the country for them, yes.

With what money was left from their savings after the voyage and stay in Buenos Ayers the Artzers and Applehans sailed for Vera Cruz, Mexico, and soon after landing went by rail to Mexico City.

Here they found that people were too full of war and rumors of the same to give work to the foreigners. The Mexicans no savied the requests for work made by the people of the czar's country.

By this time the money of the Russiars was about gone and the wolf began to howl. Of their straits they wrote friends in "Little Russia." And the frugal, but generous people from their savings contributed largely until the required amount was subscribed.

The other \$100 was sent, by telegraph and cable to one Casper Craft at the Canary Islands. The sending altogether cost \$15 for about 20 words. Kraft had first gone to Capetown from Russia, then to the Canary Islands and now intends coming to Topeka. The \$100 which he needed to add to his money to pay the rest of his way was quickly raised by his relatives and friends here when they learned he required the sum.

FARMERS' MARKET and FUTURE CLUB FINANCES

It has been suggested that our German heritage club once again start raising funds for our club, by selling bierocks at a local farmers' market on Saturday mornings.

We had done so in the past and during about five years we accumulated over \$9,000 in savings for the club. However, we lost our bakery provider and ceased operations two years ago. This was an unplanned yet welcome reprieve from our Summer Saturday morning "bondage".

After realizing the burden of the previous commitment, many, including myself, question whether we would ever go back to the level of volunteering on Saturdays as previously, even if we could obtain a quality product and overcome the considerable logistical delivery and preparation issues involved. It was a lot of work and commitment. My time has become increasingly valuable personal time, and members are increasingly aging.

We have pondered how long our heritage club could exist on our existing reserves. Actually the record was more favorable than I had imagined. Judging from our Treasurer's records of \$11, 198 in checking and CDs, even after deducting \$1,000 projected for hosting next year's Roundup, we would still have \$10,000 in reserves. Based on our current rate of annual expenses of \$1,155, our reserves would carry the club for 10 years. Supplemental fund raisers could be developed as needed.

Around 1974 the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia was formed, with seven Kansas Chapters. Since that time four of the original Kansas Chapters have disbanded, due to population loses as second and third generation immigrants died and others and their children have moved to more lucrative employment opportunities in remote communities. While others members remain, the heritage becomes more distant, remote and less relevant to the assimilated youth of the fourth generation.

I would continue to occasionally assist other individuals who wanted to take a leadership role in this endeavor, but I will decline involving myself to the degree previously.

VILLAGE FAMILY BOOKS and OTHER RESEARCH BOOKS

Bill Pickelhaup wrote on the Volga German List:

Thanks to the information Brent Mai provided, I was able to plug into existing research online and track the Pickelhaupt family back to 1580. I think I have mentioned Ortsippenbooks, also called Ortfamilienbuch, about a year and a half ago on this list. By finding out the missing generations from Brent for the early 1700s and late 1600s, I could click some links and go back another hundred years. Not every village in Germany is covered by a published Ortsippenbuch, but there are quite a few for Hesse.

To see what Ortsippenbuchs are available online, go to this link:
<http://www.online-ofb.de/>

If your ancestral village in Germany or elsewhere happens to be there, click on it, and it will take you to a page for that village. It will be in German, but copy the http at the top of the page and run it through Google Translate for German to English if you need to. Click at the left on the link that says list of family names. Pick the first letter for the last name being researched to see if your surname is there. If your surname is there, cick on it, and every person by that surname from that village in the Ortsippenbuch will show up.

I can not make it any simpler than that. Bill Pickelhaupt

Jerry Goertzen comments on a research request on a Pleve report of my ancestor coming from NEUBURG, MAINZ:

I have heard of the Ortsfamilienduchs but have not seen one. I find it is much easier to find German villages in Kevan Hansen's series on 'German Map Guides and Parish Registries'. The series will cover all of Germany eventually and he is up to Vol. 48. He has most of our Volga people covered in the volumes he has finished already. Neuburg was not a village, but Neuburg Hof (an Estate). The landowner had many subjects working his land. The estate was near the village of Heldenberger. I couldn't find Neuburg Hof so it may not exist anymore. The Catholics of Neuburg Hof were in the catholic parish of Heldenberger, Kreis Friedberg of Oberhessen, Grand Duchy of Hessen.

Neuburg was not a village, but Neuburg Hof (an Estate). The landowner had many subjects working his land. The estate was near the village of Heldenberger. I couldn't find Neuburg Hof so it may not exist anymore. The village of Heldenberger is about 5 miles West of Budingen. The Catholics of Neuburg Hof were in the catholic parish of Heldenberger, Kreis Friedberg of Oberhessen, Grand Duchy of Hessen.

A fellow kinsman, Laverne Beilman noted issues in our joint search for Neuburg, Mainz:

I don't know if you have ever investigated the following but I located the information in the Gazetteer for German towns. The village of Neuburg, located about 11 - 14 miles north east of Frankfurt references the village of Heldenbergen. Don't know if that is a successor name or what but you may be interested in following up.

Beilman continues:

If you were to look at a map describing the territory controlled by the Archbishop of Mainz in the approximate 1765 or before period you will notice that he controlled a vast amount of land not only surrounding the city of Mainz but also in other areas of Hesse Darmstadt and also extending into Franconia and possible Bavaria. He controlled spots of land all over the place and the property was NOT contiguous. So the Jacob(s) family could very well have come from present-day Hesse, north of Frankfurt and still have been Catholic and citizens of Mainz.

Jerry Goertzen located the LDS microfilm of the village of Heldenbergen, ending my wild goose chase all over the German map for the elusive Pleve reference to the "non village" of Neuburg in the contiguous bishopric of Mainz, considerable South of Heldenbergen.

HISTORY of FOREIGN COLONIZATION of RUSSIA in THE 18TH CENTURY

Bill Pickelhaupt answered a puzzling question of why some of the original settlers in Ober-monjou did not show up in the First Settlers' List, including my ancestors. The answer is that they spent that first winter in Paulskoye.

Bill noted the interesting study:
a tabular report, I believe it was by Count Orlov, to Catherine the Great dated February 14, 1769. I have not seen it discussed on this list, so I bring it up now. It is part of the appendix in a book by G.G. Pisarevsky entitled "Studies on the History of Foreign Colonization in Russia in the 18th century."

In the report, the number of males and females fit for farming by village is given. It also, more interestingly, lists the number of workers, the horses, cattle and calves, sheep, pigs, amount of wheat threshed and number of mills, amount of rye sown the previous autumn, and number of structures built for the settlers up to that date (late 1768). Structures are broken down by residence, barns/granaries and stables.

We have similar information in the 1798 revision list, but this is 30 years earlier, shortly after the colonies were first settled. So it gives a glimpse of development shortly after that settlement. The section I have is only on the Meadow Side. Looks like even Bern and Caeserfeld are included.

The book is in Russian, for those interested in the Hilly Side, and sits on a shelf at the AHSGR library.

I will give info on the villages that I have. No charge in case anyone wonders.

The entire report from Count Orlov to Catherine the Great was dated February 14, 1769 and have translated it from Russian into English (as well as Google Translate allows). The report appears as an appendix in G.G. Pisarevsky's book *Studies on the History of Foreign Colonization in Russia in the 18th Century, *(1909). It lists, by colony, the number of settlers fit and unfit for agriculture, number of males and females, livestock and servants/hired workers, amount of wheat threshed the year before and milled for bread, amount of rye sown the previous year and number of structures built by the government for the settlers. Orlov notes that two pastorates with houses and schools and storage were built the previous summer, but he does not say in which colonies they were built. I will send anyone that wants a copy of the report by email; it did not take much time to translate this and cost me only the amount to rejoin AHSGR and a small research fee.

The report is organized by crown colonies, colonies of Beauregard, of LeRoy, of de Boffe ad those living in the city of Saratov. What strikes me is how poorly the private recruiters LeRoy and especially Beauregard had organized the necessary requirements for life in most of their colonies. LeRoy's colonies, with 50% the number of settlers as the crown colonies, only milled 13% as much wheat in 1768 as the crown colonies had milled. Beauregard's colonies, also with about 50% as many settlers as the crown colonies, only milled 8% as much wheat as the crown colonies in 1768. A few of the crown colonies were officially founded after the official founding of many of Beauregard's colonies, but the crown colonies produced wheat whereas 16 of Beauregard's 27 colonies milled no wheat at all! Only three of his 27 colonies had a mill in 1768. No wonder we find settlers that stayed the winter in Paulskoye, Katharinenstadt and Nieder-Monjou before being located to colonies like Baskakovka, Naeb, etc. in 1768. All of his colonies at least planted rye in 1768. According to Plevé's report on the Klaus family, these Ober-monjou migrants also spent their first winter in Paulskoye.

RESEARCHER LIMITED by HEALTH ISSUES

Bill Pickelhaupt, whose has contributed considerable research material to the Volga German List has recently experienced health issues which will curtail his further research. He has announced that he will continue as a private genealogist specializing in German Russian research. He can be reached at billpick11@gmail.com

Bill writes (12 1 2011), I had a very mild heart attack the day before yesterday, so I don't think it is wise for me to commute 3 1/2 hours a day from Fredricksburg to Austin, Texas any longer. Actually I am doing well, and feel better than I have for some time.

I have decided to hang out the shingle for genealogical research. I have had success (have tracked some GRs to the 1500s and 1600s), have some very helpful contacts and an inquistive and creative nose when it comes to discovery of sources. I have a working knowledge of German and can make my way through Russian documents. And I am very persistent, a key attribute in genealogical research.

SOME OF BILL'S RECENT RESEARCH IS LISTED BELOW.

10 13 2011 Funds were mailed to get St. Petersburg started on the search for additional lists of immigrants (beyond the Kuhlberg lists) into Russia in the late 1760s. Contact person says the archive is obliged to answer within 3 months.

11 5 2011 1862 Report of Protestant Support Fund in Russia
The translation of the 1862 report of the Protestant Support Fund in Russia is completed. An expert has reviewed and improved that translation. It should be repeated that this is not list of a bunch of names, but rather an account of the Volga German colonies as of 1862.

One portion is organized by parish, with a brief description of the village where the parish seat was located and any other items felt to be worthy of note. The pastor's salary and village's church assets for inventory and its capital fund are laid out. There is the occasional gem, such as mention of a sugar refinery in the village to process sugar beets grown by the farmers. This will be about 27 pages.

The second portion is a history of the Daughter Colonies. Since it was written in 1862, the Daughter Colonies were usually from one to 12 years then, fairly new. Most Daugther Colonies have a paragraph, but a couple run a page. This part is 19 pages. The colonies covered are:

On the Nachoi: Weizenfeld, Gnadendorf, Rosenfeld, Fresenthal, New-Urbach, New-Laub and Alexandersdorf

On the Big Karaman: New-Boaro and Lilienfeld, Sichelberg, Mannheim and Gnadenflur

On the Yaroslav: Rosenthal, Hoffenthal, Konstantinovka, Wiesenheim, Rosendamm, Lengensfeld, Eckheim, Gnadenfeld, Kirchheim, New-Bauer, Friedenfeld, Aehrenfeld, New-Beideck

On Jamma Creek: Katharinenthal

On the Krivoi-Yar: Brunnenthal and New-Jagodnaya (aka New Straub)

On the Gashon: New-Hussenbach, New Wiesenmuller, "Livonia" (half Estonian, half German), Schoendorf, Schoenfeld and Schoenthal

The writer, Pastor F. Dsirne of North Catharinenstadt parish, also made an effort to describe the character of the inhabitants of certain villages. He particularly mentions settlers from the Mother Colonies of Norka and Jagodnaya-Polyana a few times as being "rough," with an odd dialect. I am not taking sides here, I just want to say he had some definite opinions on certain things.

There will also be an introduction that will give some detail of the Support Fund, or Unterstuetzungs-Kasse Fuer Evangelical Lutheran Gemeinden. The Support Fund played a key role in progress of the Protestant Church in Russia, supporting the construction of churches, school and prayer houses, parsonages and church offices; poor, elderly and disabled pastors, and their widows and children when they were gone; helped defray the cost of travel to minister to distant villages and khutors in or near the parish; and other duties, mainly financial.

The whole thing will run about 50 pages and will cost \$20, including postage. This work will be the stepping stone for a paper to be presented at next year's AHSGR convention in Portland, if I can complete the paper by then and if it is accepted for presentation.

11 6 2011 A question came up on the history of the Roman Catholic colonies. I am not immediately aware of any historical work, but will pass along that the Russian State Historical Archive in St. Petersburg reports it has the "supreme ecclesiastical" archives of the Roman Catholic Church in Russia. Don't know anymore than that for the Roman Catholics. That same archive has the records of the General Evangelical Lutheran Consistory and the St. Petersburg Ev. Luth. Consistory. All Protestant Consistories in Russia were under the General Consistory from about 1819 to 1917. The Black Sea Protestant colonies were under the St Petersburg Consistory, and I believe that LDS was able to copy a portion of that collection. Thomas Edlund has published a guide to the LDS collection.

11 12 2011 I have a book in German from 1865 on the history of the Reformed Church in Russia. 59 pages relate to areas where there were a number of German settlements: 10 pages on Odessa, 35 pages on the Black Sea colonies (Chabag - French?, Neudorf and Rohrbach, with filial villages) and 14 pages on the Volga colonies of Norka, Messer and Balzer. If there is much interest I will translate it. The part on Norka has already been translated.

This is historical data, not lists of names. Bill Pickelhaupt

GENETIC Y DNA CROSSES INTO PRINTED CHURCH RECORDS

I was researching the Catholic Peter Klaus family from Obermonjou Russia and had a recent interesting development which spans both Y DNA and LDS archaic parish records.

The Peter Klaus family is my mother's family so I had to have Y DNA collected from a male cousin who is the son of my mother's brother.

He recently received a 25 marker Y DNA report which included a “family tree”, which is not usually the case. This person shared a common ancestor with my maternal grandfather, which is not particularly unusual. What was interesting was that his oldest recorded ancestor listed residence at villages Friesenheim and Heiligenzel, in Baden, approximately 60 years after our family left for Russia. Such research presumes some stability in family clans in geographic regions.

While these villages were of no particular prior interest or knowledge to me, what was of an interest was that this was a region which contributed settlers to Volga German villages.

The next step was to check Hansen's book of German Parishes in the Grand Duchy of Baden. With good luck the village records were collected by LDS and had a microfilm on file. This may be a dead end but it does hold some promise as well as complex penmanship in ancient churchbooks.

The doner of the German Y DNA noted that research in the Ortsfamilienbuch showed five citations of Klaus family members. Also Heiligenzel was also the site of a pitched battle during the 30 Years War.