



American Historical
Society
Of Germans From Russia
Northeastern Kansas Chapter
15



February/March 2003

THE AHSGR MISSION STATEMENT

“An international organization dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and dissemination of information related to the history, cultural heritage and genealogy of Germanic Settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants. “

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Regular meetings are held bi-monthly at 2:00pm, the second Sunday of the month in the basement of St. Joseph's Church, at the corner of 3rd Street and Van Buren Street, Topeka, KS. Guests are always welcome. Potluck dinner is served after the meeting. Please bring a covered dish and your place settings and share in the fellowship.

Library resources including books, videos, newsletters, audiocassettes, etc. are available for review during the meetings or may be checked out for more in depth review. See Ike Appelhanz for more details. Donations to our library are always welcome.

April 13, 2003 Program

Submitted by John Reb

The "Prairie Crosses, Prairie Voices: Iron Crosses of the Great Plains" video will be shown. The video was written and narrated by Dr. Timothy Kloberdanz.

New Members and Guests Who Attended Our February Meeting:

Martha & Ike Issinghoff & Ike – new members
Dr. Mike Giessel - new member
Delbert Grau
Norine Staab
Cliff Leiker
Teresa Schiefelbein
Kathy Flowers
Madeline Desch

Fundraiser Report

Submitted by Frank Jacobs

The NE Kansas Chapter of the AHSGR will attempt to supplement its fund raising this summer through the use of the Saturday morning Topeka Farmers' Market.

We will experiment with the sales of bierochs on Saturday mornings at the Market. We have a commercial supplier who can provide us with a regular supply of Herzog, Russia recipe bierochs, and we can supplement such sales with local AHSGR chapter bieroche sales, as volunteers see fit to produce such local bierochs.

The Market opens Saturday April 19 and runs for 30 weeks. We will be asking for volunteers to work in rotation on 2 person sales teams, or as backup replacement sales persons, throughout the Market season. This could be an excellent opportunity to rebuild our treasury for future programming events. Interested parties should contact Frank Jacobs at fjacobs@cox.net or phone 246 2821.

From the Librarian:

Ike Appelhanz reported our library was back now that the construction was completed. We had one new donation – obits of St. Joseph Cemetery, Flush KS, Pottawatomie County.

Computer and Genealogy:

The St. Joseph Catholic Church records in Topeka, KS have been microfilmed onto four reels. The records cover dates from October 1887 to January 2002. Members of the North-East Kansas chapter of AHSGR will research the records for individuals. The members request a donation to their chapter of AHSGR for this research. The donations are to help the chapter remain solvent. Baptisms, Marriages, Communions, Confirmations and deaths are some of the records. E-mail addresses of members doing this research work are: Appelhanz@cs.com Edschwerdt@mindspring.com Ubert@cox.net

Teresa Miller reported the St. Joseph history book is now on hold – another project of major importance has taken precedence. She urged those present to become active in the writing program in the parish's efforts to seek grant funding for the preservation/repair of the existing clocks and their working mechanisms.

Gary Ubert reported a Memorial Fund has been set up at the Topeka Genealogical Society in memory of our deceased member, Wilma Stadler. He is trying to get our web site updated. There was new activity on the purchase of records from Pleve in Russia – Schwerdt, Lambrecht, Stang, Keiner and Burghart surnames. It was also mentioned that we were working on a request appearing in CLUES from an Alex Reser, who had emigrated from Russia to Germany, concerning families who originally settled in Topeka and then moved to Chicago.

Frank Jacobs mentioned that Janet Flickinger of Russell is working on a research list for Russell County.

Bill Domme stated that Sacred Heart parish has completed the Baptismal records and they are in the computer – now working on marriages, hoping to have them completed by German fest time – the first weekend in June. He also inquired if it would be possible to have AHSGR booth information available at the German fest to answer questions about our organization.

Upcoming Events:

Our next regular meeting is on June 8, 2pm.

The 34th AHSGR International Convention will be held June 15 – 22, 2003, at Yakima, Washington.

Our annual picnic will be held August 10 at Tecumseh Park.

From the Golden Wheat Chapter Newsletter of March 27, 2003:

Murphy's Law as Applied to Genealogy

Here are a few excerpts from the Inevitable Laws of Genealogy published by the American Genealogical Lending Library.

1. The records you need for your family history were in the courthouse that burned.
2. The public ceremony in which your distinguished ancestor participated when the platform under him collapsed, turned out to be a hanging
3. The only surname not found among the 3 billion in the Mormon archives is yours.
4. The four volume, 4,800 page history of the county where your great-grandfather lived is not indexed.
5. Your grandmother's maiden name for which you've searched for years, was in an old letter in a box in the attic, all the time.

From the Central California Newsletter of March 27, 2003

ALL I NEED TO LEARN ABOUT LIFE, I LEARNED FROM THE EASTER BUNNY !

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
Walk softly and carry a big carrot.
Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.
There's no such thing as too much candy.
All work and no play can make you a basket case.
A cute little tail attracts a lot of attention.
Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.
Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits.
Some body parts should be floppy.
Keep your paws off other people's jellybeans.
Good things come in small sugarcoated packages.
The grass is greener in someone else's basket.
An Easter bonnet can tame even the wildest hare.
To show your true colors, you have to come out of the shell.
The best things in life are still sweet and gooey.

Author unknown

THE EASTER BUNNY From the German Life Magazine, April 1999

Eggs and rabbits are pre-Christian fertility symbols. In ancient Egypt and Persia, people exchanged decorated eggs at the spring equinox. Early Christians adopted the custom, and the Easter Egg became a religious symbol – representing the tomb out of which Jesus came, like life bursting forth from an egg. They were often colored red to represent the blood of Christ. During the Middle Ages, eggs, forbidden during Lent, were given at Easter to servants and children to symbolize the resurrection and new life in Christ. The rabbit was an image of Christ's post-resurrection appearances, which were likened to the rabbit being seen and then disappearing and then being seen again somewhere else.

The first mention of an egg-carrying Osterhase, or Easter Bunny, comes from Germany in the late 1500's where he brought red eggs on Holy Thursday and multi-colored eggs the night before Easter Sunday. Children would build nests in a secret place, often outside, using their caps and bonnets. If they were good, the Osterhase would leave some eggs for them. The first edible bunnies, made of pastry, were created in Germany about 200 years ago. Early 18th century German immigrants to Pennsylvania brought the pastry tradition with them to America.

Thanks To All Of Our Members Who Renewed for 2003

Submitted by Henrietta Gleason

Henrietta found the following in a magazine but can't remember which one, so don't know who deserves the credit for it, but she thought it was rather appropriate.

The Value of One Member

Ten little members standing in a line.
One disliked the President, then there was nine.
Nine ambitious members offered to work late.
One forgot his promise, then there was eight.
Eight creative members had ideas good as heaven.
One lost enthusiasm, then there were seven.
Seven loyal members, got into a fix.
They quarreled over projects, and then there were six.
Six members remained with spirit and with drive.
One moved away, then there were five.
Five steadfast members wished there were more.
One became indifferent, then there were four.
Four cheerful members who never disagree.
'Til one complained of meetings, then there were three.
Three eager members!! What did they do?
One got discouraged, then there were two.
Two lonely members, our rhyme is nearly done.
One joined an athletic club, then there was one.
One faithful member was feeling rather blue.
Met with a neighbor, then there were two.
Two earnest members each enrolled one more.
Doubling their number, and then there were four.
Four determined members, just couldn't wait.
'Til each brought another, and then there were eight!
Eight excited members signed up sixteen more.
In another six versus, there'll be a thousand twenty-four.