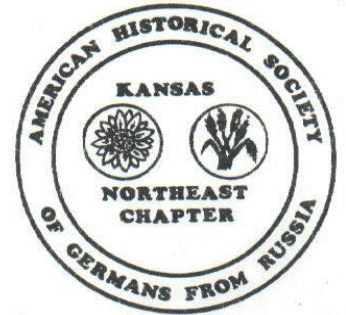




American Historical
Society
Of Germans From Russia

Northeastern Kansas Chapter
15



August/September 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.

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.

From the Librarian:

Two new books have been donated to our library by Dean Engroff: "**Marcella B. Mader Family History**" and "**Marcella B. Mader Descendants, Engroff-Domme**".

At the June meeting I mentioned the matter of donating our library's materials to The Topeka Shawnee County Public Library (TSCPL). Our AHSGR chapter meets six (6) times a year. One (1) of the meetings is the picnic and another meeting is our Christmas Party. This leaves four (4) meetings to use the library materials. If our library materials are donated they will be available at least 360 days a year at the TSCPL, 9AM-9PM except on Sundays-2PM. The general public will also have access to these materials. This will give AHSGR exposure to the public about our history and culture. Free Publicity! Opportunity for recruitment of new members!

The library's videos, cassettes and CDs will not be donated to TSCPL. They will remain in our library. I will make available to all chapter members a list of materials donated and also a list of materials remaining in our library.

Most all of our library materials are items that have been donated. If any donors feel that their donations should not be donated, they may have them returned. Our donated materials will be housed in the Genealogy section of TSCPL. Please consider this proposal and vote at our October meeting.

October 12, 2003 Program

Racella Briggs from the Topeka Genealogical Society will present an interesting program titled "Cemetery Research". She has done a great deal of her own research and will share in a fun and exciting way how you can do yours.

Proposed revisions of the Chapter bylaws will be discussed and voted on. A copy of the proposed revisions is enclosed with this newsletter for Chapter members. Chapter members receiving this newsletter by email will receive a special mailing containing the proposed revisions.

We will also have a visitor from the state of Washington. The following email was received from Elizabeth Hoffman.

My name is Elizabeth (Betty) Hoffman. I am a descendent of German's from Russia. My grandfather was Joseph Hoffman, my grandmother was Elizabeth Burghart. He was born in Topeka. She was born in Pfeifer, Russia. My great grandparents were Thomas (John) Hoffman, born in Rohleder, Russia and Catherine Elizabeth Mueller who was born in Obermunjor, Russia.

I am currently living in Washington state and am planning a trip to Topeka in October. I would like to attend your October 12 meeting and see the church which my great grandfather helped to build. As a matter of fact he was killed during the construction of the church.

I hope to spend some time in Topeka looking up my cousins who may still be living there. I look forward to meeting your societies members.

***Kindest regards,
Betty Hoffman***

Upcoming Events:

October 11-12 – FHSU Knights of Columbus Annual Polkafest – Fanchon Ballroom – East Highway 40, Hays. Two days of dancing, door prizes, raffle, buffet. Music by The Country Dutchman, Olmer Wittman, The Polka Nuts & The Polkaneers. For more information call 785-625-4210 or email acctant@ruraltel.net.

October 12 – NE Kansas AHSGR meeting in the basement of St. Joseph's Church, at the corner of 3rd Street and Van Buren Street, Topeka, KS. Guests are welcome.

October 12 – Congratulations to the Golden Wheat Chapter of AHSGR on the celebration of their 25th Anniversary. AHSGR members and their extended family are invited to the celebration held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 909 South Market, Wichita, KS 2:00 to 5:00 pm, program at 3:00, with refreshments to follow. Childcare is available for children up to age of six. For more information, contact Carol Riffel at 316-269-9108.

October 18 – The Annual AHSGR Kansas Roundup of Chapters will be hosted by The Heart of America Chapter in Salina, KS at the Red Coach Inn. Registration begins at 8am with the meeting beginning at 9am.

December 14 – NE KS Chapter Annual Christmas Party. Pot luck dinner at 1pm. Entertainment and a visit from Santa follows dinner. Please bring your families and share in the special season.

New Member Profile:

Please welcome our newest member, Maggie Lock. Maggie lives in Lawrence. She and her husband Jim have 5 children. She is researching the surnames of Desch and Jacobs and the village of Pfeifer.

Personal Notes:

Teresa Miller's son, Michael L. Miller, married Tara Durkes on 8/16/03. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

Francis and Ollie Stadler have a new great granddaughter, Bailey Amanda Halce, born 8/11/03. Congratulations!

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Joe Heit, who died 8/4/03.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Betty Stadler who recently passed away. Betty is the sister-in-law to Francis Stadler, Eugene Stadler, and Marie Kaberline.

Congratulations to our Chapter! Diane White, AHSGR Membership & Translator Coordinator, presented an award to the Northeast Kansas Chapter for The Early Renewal Contest. Our Chapter won the 41 – 80 member division with 29 members that renewed before December 31, 2002. The award certificate will be on display at the October 12 meeting.

The following email was received from Alan Muise-Benner, Calgary, Alberta.

Greetings Everyone;

This past Spring, the Calgary Chapter, AHSGR, launched it's new website. Due to the 25th anniversary activities that we undertook at the same time, which continued through until this month, it's been growing slowly. We hope, in the next months, to continue with expansion of the site, as opportunity permits. In the meantime, we feel comfortable with our new project, and would like to make as many as possible aware of it. Please forward this link, and information, to all of your members, and interested G-R researchers. If you would be so inclined, we would also appreciate it's inclusion in your chapter newsletter, or a link on your own website. There is a Guest Book, for any comments you might like to make, or alternately, you may contact myself, or our webmistress (e-mail addresses on site). We also have a Query page, which we hope that folks will begin to make use of, in their genealogical, or historical, research. Thank you for this opportunity to make our web presence known to you. The link follows: <http://CalgaryChapterAHSGR.minidns.net/>

**Regards,
Alan Muise-Benner, President
Calgary Chapter, AHSGR
<almuise-benner@shaw.ca>**