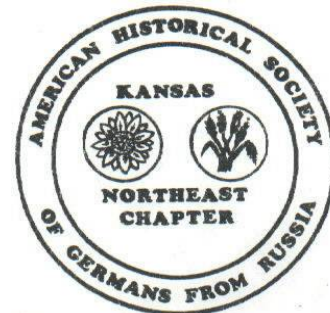




American Historical
Society
Of Germans From Russia



Northeastern Kansas Chapter 15

June / July 2004

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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No meeting August 8!! 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.

Annual Picnic: Friday, August 6, 5:30pm. No meeting August 8!!

The annual picnic will be at Lake Shawnee shelter house #3 (see attached map). Members and guests are to bring a meat dish, one other covered dish, and their table service. The Chapter will furnish the refreshments. Shelter house #3 is air-conditioned, has a small kitchen, indoor restrooms, and a very large attached deck. Supper will be served at 6:00pm. Plan to attend this beautiful picnic at the southwest area of Lake Shawnee. Bring your lawn chairs.

From the President:

We need volunteers for the nominating committee for new officers. We also need volunteers for the Christmas program committee. Bierock sales are going very well. Please consider volunteering to help with the sales effort at the Topeka Farmer's Market each Saturday morning. Setup starts at 7am. A really big hand for Jack and Henrietta Gleason for using their RV for heating the bierocks. We wouldn't be able to sell them without their help.

From the Librarian:

Ike Appelhanz was absent. Frank Jacobs stated he has a copy of the Semenovka, Russia census. He also has a book of St. Michael the Archangel church of Argentina. It has names connected with the villages of Herzog, Kamenka, and Pfeifer, Russia.

Personal Notes:

It was reported that Sherry Rose's mother has cancer, please remember her in your prayers.

Francis & Ollie Stadler celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary on July 2.
They were married on July 2, 1951 in Sacred Heart Church, Topeka.

Upcoming Events:

September 18, 19: 3rd Annual Genuine German Oktoberfest, Ellis County Fair Grounds, Hays, KS
"Join us and your friends in celebrating local heritage with great German food, beverages, songs, dancing, crafts and old-time demonstrations. We also have a Sunday Polka Mass". For more information, go to: www.geocities.com/deutschefest

October 23: AHSGR Kansas Roundup of Chapters. Russell, KS., Russell Inn. More details soon.

Submitted by Frank Jacobs

"Migration Patterns"

At a recent Wisconsin reunion I ran across some Volga German migration patterns in the USA that were new to me. Most of us are familiar with the Chicago migrations of the Volga Germans of Topeka following the Santa Fe Railroad strike of the early 1920s. The Stegmans (aka Stechmanns) left Topeka for Chicago and show up in the St Alphonse Church records of South Chicago, an inner city church that no longer contains Germans. Not all of the following were Santa Fe refugees. Bill Pfeifer ended up in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, operating a large shipyard crane on Lake Michigan. He later went to Milwaukee.

The Beforts, Dorzweilers and Millers ended up in Menasha, Wisconsin, a paper mill town. Joe Riedel Sr ended up in the Kimberly Clark paper mill in Kimberly, Wisconsin, the home of what else but Kleenex tissues. (I suspect our families could have used many of them, if they could afford them.)

Philip Jacobs and his wife Pauline Staab left their Catherine, Kansas farm for Menasha, Wisconsin when they "went under" in the 1920s. When the dust storms hit in the 1930s, the rest of the clan followed with the promise of jobs in the paper mills. Alex Sanders and Armelia Jacobs followed, and later Alex Jacobs and Pauline Waldschmidt.

Of course there was the simultaneous migration to California. I recently received an inquiry from Faye Meier Schantz in San Leondro, California, inquiring about the Jacobs family that lived across the road from her back in Gorham, Kansas. She was amazed by the outline of that particular family tree when I sent it to her. Her reply, I barely scanned the names and got chills recalling the names! Imagine being seventy six and clicking back! What a treasure.

Submitted by Henrietta Gleason

"GRANDMA AND THE FAMILY TREE" Author Unknown

There's been a change in Grandma, we've noticed her of late,
She's reading history or jotting down some date.
She's tracking back the family, we'll all have pedigrees.
Oh, Grandma's got a hobby, she's climbing Family Trees.

Poor Grandpa does the cooking and now, or so he states,
That worst of all, he has to wash the cups and Dinner plates.
Grandma can't be bothered, she's busy as a bee,
Compiling Genealogy, for the Family Tree.

She has no time to baby-sit, the curtains are a fright.
No buttons left on Grandpa's shirt, the flower bed's a sight.
She's given up her club work, the serials on TV,
The only thing she does nowadays is climb the Family Tree.

She goes down to the Courthouse and studies ancient lore,
We know more about our forebears than we ever knew before.
The books are old and dusty, they make poor Grandma sneeze,
A minor irritation when you're climbing Family Trees.

The mail is all for Grandma, it comes from near and far,
Last week she got the proof she needs to join the DAR.
A worthwhile avocation, to that we all agree,
A monumental project, to climb the Family Tree.

Now some folks came from Scotland and some from Galway Bay,
Some were French as pastry, some German, all the way.
Some went on west to stake their claim. Some stayed near by the sea.
Grandma hopes to find them all as she climbs the Family Tree.

She wanders through the graveyard in search of date or name,
The rich, the poor, the in-between, all sleeping there the same.
She pauses now and then to rest, fanned by a gentle breeze,
That blows above the Fathers of all our Family Trees.

There were pioneers and patriots mixed in our kith and kin,
Who blazed the paths of wilderness and fought through thick and thin.
But none more staunch than Grandma, whose eyes light up with glee,
Each time she finds a missing branch for the Family Tree.

Their skills were wide and varied, from Carpenter to Cook,
And one (Alas) the record shows was hopelessly a crook.
Blacksmith, weaver, farmer, judge, some tutored for a fee.
Long lost in time, now all recorded on the Family Tree.

To some it's just a hobby, to Grandma it's much more,
She knows the joys and heartaches of those who went before.
They loved, they lost, they laughed, they wept, and now for you and me,
They live again in spirit, around the Family Tree.

At last she's nearly finished and we are each exposed.
Life will be the same again, this we supposed !
Grandma will cook and sew, serve cookies with our tea.
We'll all be fat, just as before that wretched Family Tree.

Sad to relate, The Preacher called and visited for a spell,
We talked about the Gospel, and other things as well,
The heathen folk, the poor-and then-'twas fate, it had to be,
Somehow the conversation turned to Grandma and the Family Tree.

We tried to change the subject, we talked of everything,
But then in Grandma's voice we heard that old familiar ring.
She told him all about the past and soon was plain to see,
The Preacher, too, was nearly snared by Grandma and the Family Tree.

He never knew his Grandpa, his mother's name was. Clark?
He and Grandma talked and talked, outside it grew quite dark.
We'd hoped our fears were groundless, but just like some disease,
Grandma's become an addict--- She's hooked on Family Trees.

Our souls were filled with sorrow, our hearts sank with dismay,
Our ears could scarce believe the words we heard our Grandma say,
"It sure is a lucky thing that you have come to me,
I know exactly how it's done, I'll climb your Family Tree.

Submitted by Frank Jacobs

"ANCIENT CUSTOMS OF VOLGA GERMANS" Thanks to the efforts of Cindy Olive we now have the English translation of the above Spanish book on the Kamenka colonies in Argentina. We have recently received permission from the author, in consultation with Nestor Beier in Argentina, to seek a publisher in the USA. That however is a costly process, and without advance funding, we may be forced to go to a more expensive route of making copies as ordered, in a more expensive process of per page copying. In the interim, Gary Ubert and I are looking at scanning pictures for the text into a sharper image for the manuscript.

Submitted by Ollie and Francis Stadler

SHORT STUFF from June/July 2004 USGenWeb News Vol. 1#5, (no author) © 2004, The USGenWeb Project. Permission to reprint articles from this newsletter is granted when the author and The USGenWeb Project News are credited.

Genealogy Search Help for Google <http://www.genealogy-search-help.com/> This free site will help you use GoogleT to research your genealogy. It will create different Google searches using tips or "tricks" that will likely improve your search results. The different searches will give you many different ways of using Google to find ancestry information on the Internet.

As you undoubtedly know, a gazetteer is one of the important books for a genealogist, providing a quick way to locate geographical sites. The Probert Encyclopaedia <http://www.probertencyclopaedia.com/places.htm> includes an online gazetteer listing "over 70,000 countries, states, counties, departments, provinces, cities, towns, villages, hamlets, rivers, seas and other places of the world." It's important to remember that this is not a historical gazetteer, so places that no longer exist will not usually be included.

There are places to find Archaic Medical Terms, http://www.paul_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm from Abasia-Astasia to Zymotic, and Jobs of the Past, <http://www.allcensus.com/jobs.html> like hooker or tipstaff.

Social and fraternal organizations played a large role in our ancestor's lives, and freemasonry was one of the most important. A Page about Freemasonry <http://web.mit.edu/dryfoo/Masonry/> is an extensive site with essays on what Masonry is, as well as news, questions and answers, letters, announcements, and other web sites.

Railroads were an important factor in the migration of our ancestors in the second part of the 19th century, as well as in the establishment and fortunes of towns. If your town was on a railroad line, the businesses and farmers were likely to thrive. If not, well, little towns dwindled and disappeared. Railroads were also a big employer. The following links should help you if your ancestor worked for the railroad: Railroad Records & Genealogical Information Before 1937 <http://www.rrb.gov/geneal2.html> and The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board and Genealogical Information After 1936. <http://www.rrb.gov/geneal.html>

From the Central California AHSGR Chapter Newsletter of October, 2003

“I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG”

Listen to the words of comedian, Red Skelton – “I remember this one teacher. He had such wisdom. We were reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and he walked over. (Mr. Lasswell was his name)... He said, “I’ve been listening to you boys and girls all semester, and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word?:

THE PLEDGE...

I....

“Me, an individual, a committee of one

Pledge...

Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give– without self-pity

Allegiance....

My love and devotion

To the flag....

Our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody’s job.

Of the United....

That means that we have all come together

States....

Individual communities that have united into 48 great states. 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that’s love for country.

Of America — and to the Republic.....

A state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it’s from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it Stands, One Nation Under God...

Meaning, so blessed by God

Indivisible....

Incapable of being divided

With Liberty

Which is freedom and the right or power to live one’s own life without threats or fear or some sort of retaliation

And Justice....

The principle or quality of dealing fairly with others

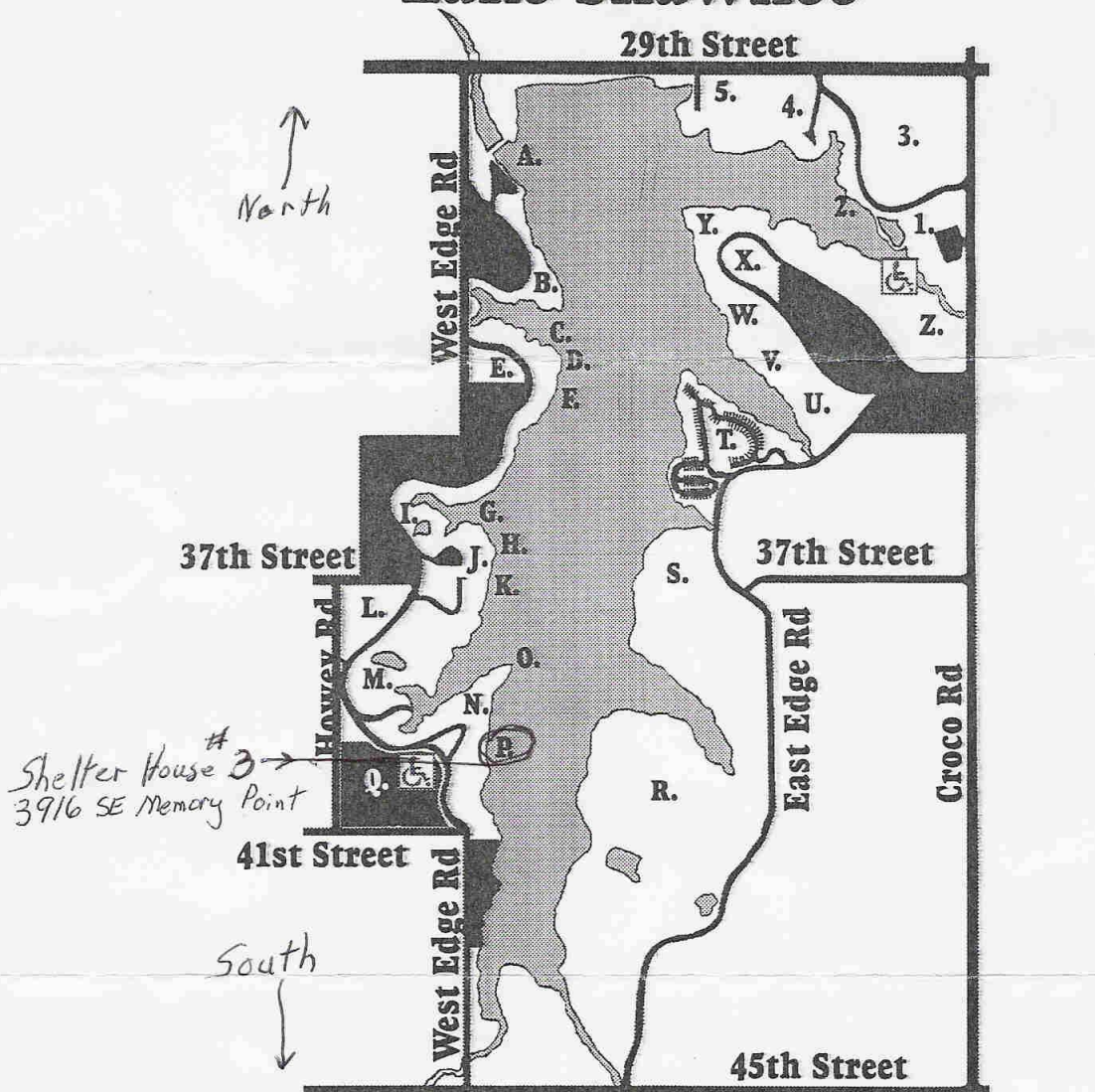
For All....

Which means it’s as much your country as it is mine.”

Sometimes, we all need a reminder!

The End

Shawnee County Parks & Recreation Lake Shawnee



- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Overlook | K. Yacht Club | V. Reynolds Lodge |
| B. Marina | L. Arboretum | W. Shelter #5 |
| C. Shelter #1 | M. Lake Shawnee Jr. | X. Shelter #4 |
| D. Shelter #2 | N. West Boat Ramps | Y. Rowing Association |
| E. SCGSA (Girls Youth Softball) | O. Gazebo #2 | Z. Disc Golf |
| F. Windsurf Beach | <u>P. Shelter #3</u> | 1. Swimming Beach |
| G. Pergola | Q. Tennis Courts | 2. East Boat Ramps |
| H. Garden House | R. Golf Course | 3. SCABA (Youth Baseball) |
| I. Gazebo #1 | S. Shelter #6 | 4. Ski Club |
| J. Ensley Botanical Garden | T. Campground | 5. Administration Office |
| | U. Recreation Building | |