



American Historical  
Society  
Of Germans From Russia

Northeastern Kansas Chapter 15

August / September 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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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.

**October 10, 2004 Program**

The program for this meeting will include viewing the first half of the tape "Topeka Remembers – 150 Years of the History Of Topeka". The viewing of the tape will be followed by the election of officers. Please come and let your voice be heard. Potluck dinner is served after the meeting. Please bring a covered dish and your place settings and share in the fellowship.

**Annual Picnic**

The annual picnic held at Lake Shawnee on August 8 was well attended. Everyone had a fun time visiting, listening and dancing to some good music, eating delicious food and playing Bunnock. Hopefully, those who couldn't make it this year can make it next August.

**Personal Notes:**

We wish a speedy recovery to Marvin Dinkel who has been hospitalized recently.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**October 23: AHSGR Kansas Roundup of Chapters.** Russell, KS., Elks Lodge. All members should have received a mailing with all the details.

**2005 National Convention:** AHSGR's 2005 National Convention will be held August 14 through 21 in Oklahoma City, at the Westin Hotel. It will feature speakers such as Dona and Lew Marquardt and Dr. Doug Hale who wrote "Germans From Russia in Oklahoma". The Westin is currently undergoing complete renovation and will be all new for the August 2005 convention with terrific meeting and banquet space and beautiful newly decorated rooms with "heavenly beds". Convention rates will be \$89 per night, discounted from the regular \$119 rate. More details to follow in later newsletters. The 2006 National Convention is currently scheduled to be in Lincoln, Nebraska. (Compliments of the Central WA. AHSGR Chapter newsletter).

### **Submitted by Frank Jacobs:**

I recently spoke with Oren Windholz at the Ellis County heritage Octoberfest on Sept. 18, 2004. Oren said that he would be presenting a program on the interaction, cohabitation, and merging of the Bukovinian Germans of Ellis, KS and the Volga Germans of the region. Oren graduated from St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays in 1959. He has a Bukovinian heritage as well as ancestry out of Herzog, Russia via Victoria, KS. Oren has traveled extensively in the Austria Hungarian homeland of the Bukovinians.

The translated manuscript of Hector Maier's Spanish book, The Ancient Traditions of the Volga Germans, written from an Argentine perspective, by Kamenka, Russia villagers, is now ready to send to the printers.

The book is 190 pages and covers the migrations, history, lifestyle, dress, rituals of life, youth, marriage, work and death; recipes, songs and proverbs in both English and German and about 150 black and white newsprint quality photos, reproduced by computer, then Xerox. We did a first batch printing at Kinkos after Labor Day, using a 8 1/2 by 11 page, double sided, Xeroxed, with vinyl cover and spiral binding, to avoid the cost and contracting involved in major batch commercial publishing. Production cost will be about \$20, plus a royalty to Mr. Maier. This was a major volunteer effort by many parties, dating back to the 1999 AHSGR convention. We are ready to start a second printing. This may be the final printing for sometime into the future. If you wish to receive a copy, mail me a check for \$25 for each copy desired. Also send to me the mailing address to which you wish it sent.

Please print your address in a "block format" as I have done with my address below. This allows me to have it directly printed onto mailing label stock without requiring me to retype your name and address. To those who have asked, Yes the book is printed in English. No, it is not a genealogical source book, other than listing immigrant surnames associated with some Russian Villages.

Thank you.

Frank Jacobs

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**From the Central California AHSGR Chapter Newsletter of October, 2004**  
**Convention News via Northern Illinois AHSGR News For Volga German Researchers**

**NEWS FOR VOLGA GERMAN RESEARCHERS**

Professor Igor Pleve announced, at convention, that more church books were recently uncovered at the Volga archives. This group is unusual as it appears that daughter colony records were not preserved. Dr. Pleve also said that new records were found for the Rothammel and Keller colonies. This means that previously completed genealogy charts do not have the new material. These are birth, baptism and marriage record books for the following colonies and years:

Bauer, 1897-1921 ( b & m)  
Kutter, 1892-1920 ( birth)  
Donnhof, 1869-1921 (birth)  
Donnhof, 1895-1921 (marr.)  
Kamenka, 1892-1921 ( b & m)  
Biedeck, 1889-1921 (b & M)  
Anton, 1899-1920 (birth)  
Huck, 1907-1921 (birth)

**Daughter colonies include:**

Franzentel, 1859 – 1921  
Neu-Schilling, 1861– 1921  
Neu-Urbach, 1861 – 1921  
Liebental, 1865 – 1869 and 1880-1921  
Lillianfeld, 1870– 1917

**OK, DR. PLEVE, WHERE IS MY GENEALOGY CHART?**

Believe it or not, there is a plan in place for delivery of outstanding surname charts. Dr. Pleve is a full time director, professor and author at Saratov University and does the Volga German genealogy in his spare time. He employs a team to work for him and his wife, Ludmilla, draws the final descendant charts. However, Mrs. Pleve has been ill for the past year and work has backed up a bit. He told convention goers that he would not accept any new orders for surname charts until Feb. 2005. By the end of September 2004, he plans to deliver 25 charts for the villages of Kukkus, Reinhardt, Frank and Walter.

Another 10 charts will be delivered by the end of 2004 and the rest of those, already ordered (65), by the end of March 2006. This should give many of you some hope that you will see your family's genealogy before you die. Dr. Pleve plans to publish his third volume of *Einwanderung in das Wolgagebiet, 1764-1767 or Immigration to the Volga Region, 1764-1767* in Fall, 2004.

**SOME MORE GR STATS**

According to Ludmilla Koretnikova, Ph.D., who spoke at the recent convention, Volga Germans still live in two areas of Russia. Most live in western Siberia in the cities of Omsk, Altai and Novosibirsk. The other area of residence is in the Volga region. This now covers a larger area than the original Volga colonies did and includes the provinces of Saratov, Samara, Volgograd and a few others. From 1989 to 2003, the German population in Russia (does not include Kazakstan or Ukraine) was reduced by one-third due to emigration from Russia to Germany.

From 1993-1995 more than 50% of the emigrants from Russia were German. By 1998 most of the Germans who still lived in Russia had intermarried with Russians. Dr. Ludmilla Koretnikova is of Volga German decent. She is half Russian and half German. She considers herself a Volga German because of her closeness to her VG grandmother. She has a Ph.D. in linguistics and teaches English and American studies at two Russian universities. *Info taken from Patrice Miller's 2004 AHSGR Convention report to the Volga List. and printed in the September 2004 Northern Illinois Newsletter.*

**NEW BUTTON ON THE BLOCK**

Kick Kraus says that if you go to the AHSGR website ([www.ahsgr.org](http://www.ahsgr.org)) and click the **Find Your Ancestors** button, on that page you will find a new button labeled "**German Origins**". Click on that and you will be brought to a brand new AHSGR project, the "**GO project.**" This project was discussed during the recent AHSGR convention in Modesto, CA.

**From the Denver Metro Chapter Newsletter of July, August, September, 2004**  
**VOLGA GERMAN DIALECT**

Found on the Ger-Volga Listserv (From Central Cal. Chapter-AHSGR) Priebisch, a German philologist, divided the German language into 17 main dialects of German. He included Yiddish in that group. Pennsylvania German (or Dutch, so called because the speakers referred to their language as Deutsch) and Volga German were considered by Priebisch to be dialects in their own right and the largest grouping outside of Germany.

The German spoken by the Pennsylvania and Volga Germans had many similarities. Both were an amalgamation of Swabian, Palatine, Hessian and Swiss German dialects. The difference between the two lay primarily in the number of words borrowed from the host country's language – both dialects developed as linguistic islands, preserving many features of 18<sup>th</sup> century German that died out in Germany proper.

The Volga Germans spoke a dialect of German. Not slang, not pig German, and not a mixture in the sense of a hodge-podge of mish-mash. Dialects have their own grammar rules, a right way to say something and a wrong way. A dialect is a language in its own right and has its own emotional and spiritual texture. It is or was a living essence, spoken by a people that lived daily lives and interacted with each other in that language. To dismiss our Volga German as slang is to condemn it to unimportance and oblivion.

**Children's Prayer**

Abba, Lieber Vater, Amen

Hail, Dear Father, Amen

**German Mealtime Prayers**

Komm Herr Jesu, Sei unser Gast  
Und segne, was du uns bescheret hast.  
Amen

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
And bless everything that you have provided for us.  
Amen

Wir loben dich und sagen dank  
Für alles, auch für Speis und Trank  
Lass uns wenn wir einst auferstehn  
Zu deinen Himmels Mahle gehn. Amen.

We praise you and say thanks  
for everything, also for food and drink.  
Let us when we some day arise  
Go to your heavenly banquet. Amen.

**From the Editors:**

Our Bierock sales were very well received at the Farmer's Market again this year. A special thank you to all the people that made it happen, especially Jack Gleason, John Reb, and Frank Jacobs. I know that many other individuals came to help out on Saturday mornings and if I start to name them I might forget someone and that certainly is not my intent. So to all of you who helped, "Thank You", for helping contribute to the treasury.



The End