

Northeast Kansas Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.



October/November 2005

From the President

Christmas Party

The annual AHSGR Christmas party will be at St. Joseph's church hall, Sunday, December 11, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** A covered dish lunch will be served at 1:15. Members are asked to bring one meat dish, one other dish and their table service. Santa should arrive about 2:45. Songs of the season and entertainment will be added. Please join with us to remember the Christmas reason. Merry Christmas.

Membership Dues

Please note: When you receive your membership renewal from the National Headquarters in Lincoln, return your renewal and funds to the National Headquarters. Please indicate on your renewal that you are a member of the AHSGR Northeast Kansas Chapter #15, Topeka, Kansas. Do not send your renewal to our local treasurer, as has been done in former years. If you are in need of assistance with your renewal, contact Treasurer Bill Domme at 234-8491.

**President,
John J. Reb**

Froehliche
Weihnachten

2005 Round-Up Briefs

- 57 attended the Hospitality/Research room sponsored by the Northeast Kansas Chapter on Friday prior to the Round-up. There was an impressive quantity of research materials available.
- Diane White from AHSGR headquarters advised that headquarters would welcome old Journals and Workpapers.
- Northeast Kansas Chapter members Ed Schwerdt and Carol Malecki were installed as Round-up Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.
- The 2008 national convention is planned as a joint convention with GRHS. Location to be determined.
- The state Round-up committee purchased a memorial plaque to honor Marvin Dinkel; it is hanging at headquarters.
- More Round-up coverage follows below and on page four.



Frank Jacobs Receives Special Award

Henrietta Gleason presents Frank Jacobs with a Document of Appreciation from the Kansas Roundup. See page three for a recounting of Frank's many contributions to AHSGR.

Congratulations, Frank!

Dennis Zitterkopf discusses the SOAR project at the Kansas Round-up. Dennis and his computer were also available for demonstrations of SOAR. Dennis reports that there are two Board of Trustees positions available for Kansas. If you know somebody who may be interested in the job, contact Dennis.



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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Membership

If you know someone with a German ancestry, encourage them to join AHSGR and our local chapter. Invite them as your guest to our next meeting.

The 2nd Annual AHSGR Membership Campaign began August 15, 2005. This campaign is designed to reward both new and referring members who recommend new members or purchase gift memberships, with discounts on specified books from the AHSGR store. The campaign will end with the Grand Prize drawing at the 2006 Lincoln Convention. Details and an application are available on-line at <http://www.ahsgr.org/> and were included in the last mailing from headquarters.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE
THE FUTURE OF AHSGR!



Library Notes

Library resources including books, videos, newsletters, audio cassettes, 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.

The 1834 and 1850 census of Pfeifer as well as the 1834 and 1850 census of Kamenka have been added to the chapter library.



Personal Notes

Birthday greetings to Loretta Schwerdt who celebrated her 80th birthday.

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1857 Obermunjou Census

The 1857 census of Obermunjou is completed and now available. This census was thought by Pleve to be not available.

1857 Luzern (Remmler) Census

The 1857 census of Luzern (Remmler), Russia has just been completed and compiled.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of these censuses please contact Kevin Rupp, 2301 Canal Blvd., Hays, Ks 67601 or at www.volgagerman.net.

Castle Garden Web Site Available

On August 3, Castle Garden immigration records became available in a searchable on-line database at www.castlegarden.org.

According to the Castle Garden web site, the database contains information on 10 million immigrants from 1830 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened.

Records on the web site may contain such information as occupation, age, gender, date of arrival, country of origin, and the name of the ship they traveled on.

**With Appreciation and Thanks
to
FRANK JACOBS
of the
NORTHEAST KANSAS CHAPTER
American Historical Society
of Germans from Russia**

As a member of AHSGR you have faithfully served the Northeast Kansas Chapter with great distinction. Your skills in leadership, research, and computers have been invaluable to the Northeast Kansas Chapter, the Kansas Roundup and the International Society. Your many years of service and devotion have contributed to the success of AHSGR.

You served four years as president of the Northeast Kansas Chapter and provided many interesting programs which you obtained and set up. You were instrumental in incorporating computer research for the Northeast Kansas Chapter. A seminar at the local LDS Church regarding the user of computers as a research tool was conducted by you. You have done research at the local LDS library and at the LDS library in Salt Lake City as well as in Germany, Russia, Argentina and several cities throughout the United States. You are a regular contributor to the Northeast Kansas Chapter Newsletter. You were instrumental in setting up a major fund raiser for your chapter of selling bierocks.

Several books were donated by you to the Northeast Kansas Chapter including "Ancient Traditions of the Germans of the Volga-Habits and Customs" by Hector Maier Schwerdt and Julio Cesar Melchoir, which you had translated and reproduced from its original Spanish to English.

You have attended the Kansas Roundup organizational meetings and in the year 2000 you served as Chairman of the Roundup organizational meeting.

You have worked with the Volga German obituaries putting them on a Family Tree Maker data base. You contributed to the SOAR Project. Your latest efforts have been directed towards DNA Family Tree Research. As a result of your efforts in this you have obtained information regarding your ethnic heritage.

Therefore, we, as members of the Kansas Chapters of AHSGR, present you with this Document of Appreciation. We hope it conveys our love and gratitude as we work together for the continued preservation and greater understanding of our ethnic heritage.

Given this 1st day of October 2005, at Topeka, Kansas, on behalf of the entire membership of the Kansas Roundup.



Left: Malvina Gack prepares for the fundraiser drawing.

Right: Knights of Columbus Color Guard.



Below: The OT's provided toe-tapping music following the evening banquet.



Left: Diane White from AHSGR headquarters addresses the crowd.

Right: Northeast Kansas Chapter members Raymond and Doris Meier and Lela Reb enjoy the Round-up.



The 1903 Flood

The following newspaper clippings were submitted by Ike Applehantz. According to the City of Topeka, Public Works web site, "The 1903 flood, which occurred between May 30 and June 4th, was very destructive and costly for the City of Topeka. Thirty four lives were lost and 8000 people or about 20 percent of the City's population was driven from their homes, 4000 of whom lost their homes completely. The lives lost were either the elderly or youngsters who were unable to summon help or help themselves. There were no undamaged business left in N.Topeka, most were completely gone. Water was reported to have been over 20 feet deep in some parts of N. Topeka."

THE RELIEF OF RUSSIANS

Over 200 People Cared For at German Catholic Church.

Many of the Russians from the North Side are being cared for at the German Catholic church, on Third street, between Jackson and Van Buren streets. This is the church where practically all of them worship. Father Henry is the pastor, and he is in charge of the relief. From the number that were in the church yesterday about noon, there must be between two and three hundred flood sufferers making their homes there; maybe more. And it is almost impossible to hear a word of English spoken. One of the first things Father Henry did, in taking charge of the refugees was to impress upon them the importance of cleanliness while so many of them are congregated there. Twice a day the rooms of the building, by his orders, must be swept, and once each day, they must be scrubbed. Father Henry admonished them to allow no dirt to accumulate there. And all water used there is first boiled. Three times a day meals are served on the long tables on the second floor which have figured heretofore in the socials given by the church. Two hours are devoted to serving each meal. All the cooking is done in the church, and there was a great lot of provisions stacked up there yesterday. Most of the families have bedding; and Vincent Kaczynski and Dick Hodgins are active in supplying the needs of those who want anything in this line. A noticeable feature of the crowd in the church is the large number of very small children, who were filling the air with their cries of unrest when a reporter visited the building yesterday.

Topeka Daily Capital, May 31, 1903

**THEIR HOMES
SWEEPED AWAY**

Dire Plight of North Topeka Russians.

THEY ARE DISCOURAGED.

Built Homes on Gordon Street to Escape Floods of River and Were Caught by Torrents Rushing From Soldier Creek.

Father Henry, who is in charge of the refugees quartered in the old German Catholic church, says that about 200 are being cared for there. All of them are members of his parish. They are being looked after in good shape. There are no cases of sickness at all among them yet. Great care is taken in keeping the building clean. Every day two men are detailed to keep the premises clean, and nothing is being neglected that can be done to keep the building and its surroundings in good sanitary condition. The German Catholic church was harder hit than any other one in the city. The homes of 113 families belonging to this church have been practically destroyed. Most of the members belong to the Russian settlement in North Topeka, the major portion of them living on East Gordon street. Formerly most of them lived close to the edge of the river; but within the past two years, many of them have moved to the northeastern portion of the city. They were led to do this because the floods have been making them trouble with too much regularity on the low lands close to the river. All but about fifteen of the Russian families have left the river front to go farther north, hoping in this manner to escape the annual overflow. In the new district fifty or sixty families have built homes ranging in price from \$500 to \$1000. They thought they were secure from water trouble where they are now, but they were caught this time by Soldier creek, and were in fully as bad condition, if not worse, than if they had remained in their old homes. Father Henry says that many of them are very much discouraged over the misfortune which has befallen them. The church itself is doing a great deal toward caring for the wants of its members, and would assume the whole burden if it could be carried. As it is, the members are furnishing everything except meat, coffee and milk, these supplies coming from the relief committee. Today school will "take up" for the children of the German refugees. Father Henry thinks the children can be looked after and be held in restraint in better shape if in school than if allowed to run about the building as at present. Two of the smaller school rooms of the church building will be used for this purpose. All the rest—the second floor, Father Henry's office, and other rooms are given up to the refugees.

**RELIEF WORK
OF SANTA FE**

It Is Caring for Its Men in Systematic Manner.

A BIG ROOMING HOUSE.

Old Machine Shops Being Utilized for the Housing of Those Who Have Lost Their Homes in the Flood.

From the very first of the flood trouble the Santa Fe company has gone about the work of aiding the sufferers in a systematic and thorough manner. The officials of the company contributed largely for the benefit of all, but the company has gone about caring for its unfortunate employes in a business-like manner. The making of the old machine shops into a rooming house for the homeless is among the most noticeable of all the many arrangements. Superintendent Henderson put a gang of carpenters to work in the old shop and on Wednesday a ground-floor flat, with thirty rooms and accommodations for about 150 people, was turned over to Secretary Prout of the Railroad Young Men's Christian association for the work of the relief committee. Secretary Prout left for the East Thursday, and this part of the work was turned over to his assistant, William Boyce, who knows nearly all of the shop men. The rooms were full and overflowing by breakfast time yesterday and many had to be turned away. None are taken in there except shopmen and their families. Superintendent Henderson saw the need of more rooms, and he put another gang of men at work and twenty more rooms were fixed up yesterday on the second floor. These will be used in the same manner that the others are. This is not all that the Santa Fe is doing. It is paying for the food and provisions that are used. It is also advancing the wages of the men who are in need of it. The shops themselves are better places for the people who are there than many of the homes they have occupied in North Topeka. A new flooring, whitewashed walls and neat partitions are in there. Although the majority of the occupants are Russians, there are a few Americans. A division of the place has been made, the Russians occupying one section and the Americans another part. The work of cooking has to be done on the outside of the building, as the insurance on the shop will not allow of a fire on the inside. A box car has been rigged up with stoves, and is located near the door. A Russian woman is in charge of the cooking for the Russian contingent, and an American woman handles the rest. Each of these women do the ordering of food through the proper authorities for her own department. The rooms have to be kept clean and in a sanitary condition. This is a part of the agreement of each family before they are admitted to the building. The children