



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



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## PROGRAM April 19, 2009 2PM

Kerstin Eibl, daughter of Thomas and Beate Eibl of Seelbach, Germany is spending her junior year of high school in Topeka. Kerstin is an exchange student attending Washburn Rural High School and living with Diane and Lewis Kimsey's family.

Seelbach is a small village located in the state of Baden-Württemberg – in the south west corner of Germany. It is located on the western edge of the beautiful Schwarzwald, "Black Forest."

Kerstin is an accomplished classical violinist and artist. In February, Kerstin represented WRHS, being the only orchestra member qualifying to play in the All-State Orchestra. Locally, Kerstin performed with the Topeka Youth Symphony. As an artist, Kerstin was asked to submit two pieces of art to the Scholastic National Art Competition. She received Honorable Mentions (third place) for her work. In March, Kerstin participated in an Art-Lock-In at WRHS and was inspired by professional artist Paul Flinders in creating an acrylic painting. The painting was auctioned off for a school fund raiser on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, for the First Friday Art Walk.

During Kerstin's exchange experience she has also participated in the WRHS fall musical and is a current member of the track team. She has enjoyed traveling with her host family.

She will return to Seelbach, Germany on May 29<sup>th</sup> where she will continue her studies at Max Planck Gymnasium – a college prep school.

Kerstin will play a violin piece and show some of her artwork, to the club. She will be happy to answer any questions that the members have about her beloved Germany!

Books donated by Sheri Rose  
February 8, 2009

Mother Russia. by Maurice Hindus  
My Russia. by Peter Ustinov  
Sailing to freedom. by Veedam and Wall  
Russian peasant schools. by Ben Eklof  
Peasant Russia Civil War.  
The Volga Countryside 1917-1921. by Orlando Figes  
German migration to the Volga. by Brent Mai  
Two lives One Russia. by Nicholas Daniloff  
Transport of the Volga Germans (1766-1767). by Brent Mai  
The challenges of Russia. by Sherwood Eddy  
Descent into darkness. by James Zatzko  
Sentenced to Siberia. by Pastor Malofs  
Harvest of Sorrow. by Robert Conquest  
A Russian Journal. by John Steinbeck  
We'll meet again in Heaven. by Ronald Vossler  
East Prussian from Russia. by Michael Anuta  
Red Bread. by Maurice Hindus  
My three years inside Russia. by Comrade X  
Journal across Russia. by Bart McDowell  
The Volga (2 Vols). by Marvin Kalb  
Migration from Russia. Vol 8  
The Czars Germans. by Hattie Williams  
Russia History. by Basil Dmytrshyn  
German Colonies on the Lower Volga. by Gottlieb Beratz  
Tomsk Oblast

In addition, the chapter has purchased the fourth volume of Pleve's book for the original settlers of the Volga villages. Villages from R to W.

Also purchased is the book: Catherine's Grandchildren: A short History of the Russian-Germans Under Soviet Rule.  
Ike Appelhanz, librarian.

## BEETFIELD MIGRATIONS

John Reb of Topeka tells of his grandfather and father trying to farm near Deerfield, west of Garden City, Kansas from 1913 to 1921.

The senior Mr. Reb worked as a recruiter for a local sugar beet company. A letter outlining his duties is included here.

John's brother Albert worked in the beet fields.

### GARDEN CITY COMPANY

GARDEN CITY, KANSAS

November 30, 1920.

Mr. John Reb, Sr.  
Garden City, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Would like very much for you to arrange to go to Lamar, Brighton and Denver, Colorado, and Sheridan, Wyoming, with a view of looking into the matter and seeing how many Russian-German tenants you can get for us, and for your services in doing this, we will agree to pay you \$15.00 per day and all your personal and traveling expenses while you are away.

Very truly yours,

GARDEN CITY COMPANY

By

Vice-President.

JS.L

Joan Welch posted information about a movie on the Internet about the sugar beet industry and Greeley, Colorado. This is a movie about our Volga Germans in Colorado. The movie is on this link for a limited time and is very interesting. Hope you are able to watch it. Go to <http://greeleygov.com/HistoricPreservation/WindowsOfTime.aspx>

You just need to click on the "Greeley Window on Time " frame at the upper left of the page to start the video.

It is very interesting, about 23 minutes in length. Thank you Joan

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I am particularly interested in migrations of peoples and dissemination of cultures and values, partially from my undergraduate major in sociology.

It seems that with the Volga Germans, economics, family association and religious affiliation played a large role in their movement.

In this issue I want to look at several examples of the sugar beet industry, movements in several western states, and the Canadian Railroad, for attracting the Volga German worker.

The following articles are dealing with the Santa Fe Railroad transporting carloads of Volga German families from Topeka to Western Kansas and Colorado in the spring to tend the sugar beet fields throughout the harvest.

The United States Land and Sugar Beet Company has arranged with Charles Gerteisen, agent for the Santa Fe, to place two coaches and one baggage car at the Santa Fe Junction depot at 6 o'clock Wednesday morning to accommodate about 150 Russian adults and children and their baggage, who will leave at noon via the Santa Fe for Garden City to work in the sugar beet fields. The Sugar Beet Company pays the expenses. These same Russians cleared and brought home last year all the way from \$300 to \$900 per family and they expect to do as well this season.

The Topeka State Journal, April 23, 1907

NOTE THE INCREASED DEMAND.

Charles Gerteisen, agent for the Santa Fe Junction depot, received word yesterday from the United States Land and Beet Sugar Company at Garden City, Kansas, that they would arrange to ship 100 more Russians from North Topeka to Garden City at once.

The United States Sugar beet Company of Garden City have arranged with Charles Gerteisen, agent for the Santa Fe to have one coach and one baggage car placed at the Santa Fe Junction depot to take some more Russians and their effects to Garden City Tuesday afternoon. The Topeka State Journal May 27, 1907

## NOTE THE COLORADO SHIFT.

Adam Degand and George Desch left last night for Sterling, Colorado, to work in the sugar beet fields there. The Great Western Sugar Beet Co. at Sterling, Colo., will advise Charles Gerteisen agent here, in a day or two as to whether they will need any more laborers or not. If they do there will be several families more to go. They get \$20 an acre to cultivate the sugar beets. Some families take care of as much as 60 acres. This would be \$1,200 earned and they can live from May until October when they return for less than \$300, this enables them to bring home about \$1,000 per family.

The Topeka State Journal May 6, 2007

The Great Western Sugar Beet Co. at Sterling, Colo., has nearly 10,000 acres in sugar beets this season while the United States Land & Sugar Beet Co. at Garden city has about 12,000 in sugar beets this season.

Dr. Tim Kloberdanz noted that some Volga German Catholic families settled on the Western slope of the Rocky Mountains in towns like Delta, Montrose, Grand Junction and others. Many of these started as sugar beet tenders. The family of Anthony Klaus (Obermonjou) and Eva Knob, previously spelled Naab (Rothammel), settled in Garden City area and had children move into the Delta, Colorado area.

On page three in this edition, is a 1920 letter from the Garden City Company, directing Mr. John Reb Sr., a local former Volga German farmer, of his obligations as their paid recruiter, to travel through out various Kansas and Colorado cities and recruit various Volga Germans to work the beet fields.

An interesting shift is noted in the Montana beet industry, made by another Kansan following the employment options provided by sugar beets.

John Read reported, "My Grandfather, George Henry Green (Gruen), first arrived in the Lutheran colonies of Kansas from Neu-Norka before they went to Montana following the sugar beets."

FRANK JACOBS

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## SICK AND SHUT IN

Eileen Davis reported that her husband Frank returned to St. Francis Hospital on Mar 14 following an emergency surgery. He had difficulty with swelling in his legs and remained until going to their Rehab unit the last week of March. He was returned to the main unit again when blood clots were found in his legs. He was placed on medication to break up such clots. Eileen reports that he is progressing for a return home.

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## 5th Annual AH\$GR Membership Campaign

This campaign is designed to reward AHSGR members (individuals) and chapters who recruit a sufficient number of new members for AHSGR or purchase gift memberships.

The campaign began August 2, 2008 and ends May 15, 2009. Winner will be announced and cash prizes awarded at the 2009 Medicine Hat, AB Canada Convention to be held June 15 – 21 (You do not need to attend to win).

Additional prizes for AHSGR Chapters will continue this year. Membership Data Forms are available at Chapters or on-line at <http://www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm>

\$100 to the AH\$GR member AND \$200 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the highest number of new members

\$75 to the AH\$GR member AND \$150 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 2nd highest number of new members

\$50 to the AH\$GR member AND \$100 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 3rd highest number of new members

In addition, all new members who join during the campaign period will have their name placed “in the hat” for a drawing.

\$25 cash prizes will be awarded to three (3) lucky new members.

## **Railroad and Canada German Russian Migration.**

As you can see in the following newspaper article, some of the St Mary's Volga German people made it to Saskatchewan. The railroad was the main attraction in western Canada in 1903. Some of the Germans who were frustrated in Argentina came to the Topeka and St. Mary, Kansas region to be near family, only to relocate elsewhere when opportunity arose. The lateness of the migration from Russia limited options, as earlier migrants tended to occupy prime homesteads first.

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St Marys Star 15 Nov 1906

Letter from Peter Boxler Leofeld Saskatchewan

Canada Nov. 15, 1906.

Editor Star

The extreme northern altitude of Saskatchewan brings harvest and threshing much later than in southern states; and whereas threshing is the only source from which the farmer may defray his honest debts the time is looked forward to with much hopeful anxiety by himself and also his creditors. I planned making \$405 above all debts this year but this calculation was frustrated by a terrific hail storm which visited this section of the country on July 19th. I may thank the Lord yet, as the tempest has spared about half of my wheat. I threshed altogether 1300 bushels of grain: whereas if no hail had set in my crop this year would have been 2800 Bushels.

I had 88 acres in grain, as follows: wheat, 70; Oats, 15; barley 3. Threshing returns were; wheat, 960 oats, 285; barley 40. Price of wheat here at the present time No 1 54c; No 2 51c and other grades correspondingly. The above yield cannot be taken as a basis of argument on fertility or productiveness of Canadian soil as the grain was badly damaged by hail.

To those who are anxious to get some particulars about Saskatchewan the following may be of interest. Work horses sell at from \$300 to \$500 a pair but of course there are cheaper ones: milk cows are from \$30 to \$50 each. Prairie land is sold at from \$10 to \$15 per acre, cheaper land can be had but the distance from market makes it undesirable.

Our community known as the Humboldt district, is traversed by the Canadian-Northern railroad which was built through here in 1904. When I came here in March 1903 the country was sterile and lonely, not a living thing except wolves and foxes to be seen. Now conditions have changed. A railroad has been built and towns have sprung up containing elevators and stores at which the farmer can market his grain and purchase supplies. An abundance of wild ducks and rabbits makes hunting winter time, quite a number have been killed since people from the United States have settled in Saskatchewan. I live just 6 1/2 miles due north of the town of Dana, which consists two large elevators. Improved 160-acre farms three and four miles from town can be purchased for \$3000. Potatoes yield well here I planted seven bushels of seed and got 155 bushels. Farm labor costs \$25 and \$30 month. Machinery is much higher here than in the States, in fact nearly everything is higher.

Hoping that this letter will be of interest to your readers, I am Yours respectfully,  
Peter Boxler (migrated from Russia in 1903)

## OBITUARY COLLECTION UPDATE

The following obituaries were collected during February 2009 through March 2009. The obituaries are provided as a service to the membership and the general public. Copies may be obtained by e mail in limited quantities at [fjacobs@cox.net](mailto:fjacobs@cox.net) or by floppy disc at most Chapter meetings.

The obituaries are offered as a research tool, and are NOT the final word on accuracy on any particular genealogy, rather they represent the most accurate information provided by the obituary's author and may contain errors.

TITLE'S FORMAT for an obituary presented here is:

- \* Current last name
- \* first name
- \* father's surname ( if deceased was married female)
- \* mother's surname if known, in parentheses
- \* the maiden name of the wife of a deceased male in brackets, if known
- \* "special interest" individual's surname in obit, flagged "randomly" within { } brackets.

TCJ is for Topeka Capital Journal and HDN is for Hays Daily News.

Anderson Werth, Carolyn Kay Weimer (Andre) 3 13 2009 HDN  
Ashbaugh, Darlene M (Bieker) 2 12 2009, HDN  
Bahr, Cecilia H Beran (Werner) 1 9 2009 HDN  
Balthazor, Jeremy (Burton) {Werth, Pfannenstiel} 2 28 2009, HDN  
Balthazor, Jerome J (Roberts) [ ILLa Jean Cokeley]3 25 2009, HDN  
Bane, Dennis J [Pendley] {Berberick}12 31 2008 TCJ  
Belshe, Doris R Hull Crossland {Jacobs} 3 10 2009 HDN  
Bieker, Mary Klaus (Pfannenstiel) 1 9 2009, HDN  
Bowers, Roy Edward (Jacob) [Guntgerman] 2 16 2009, TCJ  
Brenton, Leora M Quint (Tate) 2 11 2009, HDN  
Brungardt, John F R , 3 8 2009, Wichita Eagle  
Burkhart, Donna Sue (Scott) 3 15 2008 Wichita Eagle  
Burns, Ralph ( Augustine) [Kutina] 12 31 2008 , HDN  
Day, Leonard Charles (Kinderknecht) [ Valyer] 3 28 2009 HDN  
Dechant, Marcella Weaver (Stremel) GER-VOLGA-L Archives 12 2008  
Desch, Francis G (Eckerman) [Obholz] 2 18 2009  
Dinges, Alvin A (Engel) [Werth] 2 19 2009 HDN  
Dinges, Stella Simoneau (Balthazor) 3 13 2009 Scottsbluff Star Herald, Nebraska  
Dinkel, Adelaide M Walters (Staab) 2 21 2009, HDN  
Dinkel, Donald J (Dreiling) 2 20 2009, HDN  
Dinkel, Donald J (Dreiling) 2 22 2009, Denver Post  
Dinkel, Iona Kinderknecht (Bittel) 2 17 2009 HDN  
Domme, Robert (Gibler) [Wagner] 2 10 2009, TCJ  
Ebel Herrman, Eva Theresia Legleiter(Hermann), 6 17 1949, Advance Register, Wichita

OBIT Page 8

Edmonds, Marvin R (Powell) [Deskions] {Artzer} 3 4 2009 TCJ  
Elder, Katherine Virginia Degenhardt (Bohn) 2 17 2009 , TCJ  
Erb, Frances A Smith (Brugger) 2 7 2009, HDN  
Feltas, Anita Dreiling (Jacobs) 1 7 2009, HDN  
Frick, Emile (Schemp) [Frank] 2 18 2009 HDN  
Gartner, Edward Jim (Heim) [Melchior] 3 20 2009 TCJ  
Germonprez, John Thomas (Ingenthron) [Pepper] 2 28 2009 TCJ  
Growe, Marilyn Barbara Orth (Sites) 1 6 2009 HDN  
Haas, Jacqueline Marie (Breit) 2 19 2009 HDN  
Haas, Jacqueline Marie (Breit) 2 19 2009, Ft Morgan Times, Colorado  
Haffner, Ester Marie Schlick (Heier) 2 23 2009, HDN  
Haffner, Ray A (Lang) [Meier] 3 2 2009, HDN  
Hake, Mona Linda (Nusse) {Dinges} 3 19 2009, HDN  
Hart, Mary Margaret Brungardt (Schwerman), 2 9 2009, HDN  
Haselhorst, Beverly Ann Steffen (Younger) 1 7 2009, HDN  
Herona, Leroy J (Rupp) [Dreiling] 2 20 2009, HDN  
Kinderknecht, Albertine Grabbe (Schumacher) 3 14 2009 HDN  
Kinison, Jim L (Justice) [Dreiling] 1 10 2009, HDN  
Klaus, Benedict (Wittman) [Meis, Pickett-Paris] 12 30 2008 HDN  
Knob {Naab}, Andrew (Berger) [Harvey] 2 19 2009, Taylor Funeral Service, Delta,CO  
Knowles, Helen Bollig (Basgall) 2 21 2009, HDN  
Koeperich, David E {Ostmeyer} 2 10 2009, HDN  
Kreitzer, Frank J (Frank) {Dinkel} 9 28 2007 Tabor Rice Funeral, Brighton, CO  
Lang, Philomene Marie Pfannenstiel (Rupp) 2 7 2009, HDN  
latest Urban stuff out of Russia.eml  
Leiker, Severin (Pfannenstiel) 1 6 2009, HDN  
Leiker, Veleta Darlene Dreher (Herrman) 3 6 2009, HDN  
Miles, Charles Everett (Ellis) [Younger - Seitz] 1 7 2009, HDN  
Milke, Francis Joseph (Rohleder) [Mermis] 3 17 2009 HDN  
Moeder, John A (Sulzman) [Ostrom] 3 12 2009 HDN  
Mousel, Justina Francesca Wehling (Steuter){Staab} 2 17 2009 HDN  
Norris, Bennie Lee (Zerr) 3 10 2009 HDN  
Oakley, Thelma V Sauer (Brooks) 3 18 2009 HDN  
Orth, Stanley D, 2 28 2009 Wichita Eagle  
Peifer, Wayne Lyle (Hiersche) 2 26 2009, Scottsbluff Star Herald  
Pfanenstiel, Arlene J (Leiker) [Dinkel] 3 28 2009, HDN  
Pfannenstiel, Gilbert (Berens) [Miller] 1 3 2009, HDN  
Pfannenstiel, Isadore Edward (Spier) [Braun] 12 31 2008, HDN  
Phillips, JoAnn Dreiling (Werth) 3 2 2009, HDN  
Randa, William P (Weber) 2 14 2009, HDN  
Rempe, Dale M (Lenherd) [Arnhold] 2 18 2009 HDN

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Robinson, Cara Louise (Dreher) {Graf} 3 5 2009 , TCJ  
Rohr, Alfred J (Dreher) [Staab] 3 18 2009 HDN  
Rohr, Nelva Pfannenstiel (Dinges) 2 22 2009, Denver Post  
Roth, Delbert Richard (Mermis) [Hickert] 3 10 2009 HDN  
Roth, Mildred E Knudson (Jones) 3 2 2009, HDN  
Rupp, Edmund Eugene (Misner) [Stark] 2 10 2009, HDN  
Sack, Ann L Schuvie (Schaffer) 3 26 2009 HDN  
Sack-Moody, Carole J Boden 3 28 2009 TCJ  
Schiffelbein, John (Puhl) 1 7 2009, TCJ  
Schmid, Walter Carl (Schumann) [Goode] {Jacobs} 2 21 2009 Wyoming Tribune-Eagle,  
Cheyenne,WY  
Schmidtberger, Bernadine Ben (Braun) [Staab] {Dreher} 2 6 2009 HDN  
Schukman, Anna Wallsmith (Kuhn) 2 24 2009 HDN  
Schwerdt, Leonard J (Bauer) [Perham] 2 11 2009, TCJ  
Seifers, Orval (Peirano) [Kaufman] 3 12 2009 HDN  
Seitz, Natalie S (Cook) 3 2 2009, HDN  
Seitzinger, Florie C Honas 1 2 2009, HDN  
Slimm, Margaret C Bissing 6 17 2001 GV List.eml  
Spayd, JoAnn Dechant (Urban) 8 10 2005, Tabor Rice Funeral, Brighton, COI  
Stadelman, Virgil Lee (Orth) [Steiner] 3 12 2009 HDN  
Stadler, Alfreda C Funch (Zeisenitz) {Meinders} 3 4 2009 TCJ  
Stephen, LaVerne Marcotte (Balthazor) 3 26 2009 HDN  
VonFeldt, Kevin Joseph (Thomas) [Thanh Nghiem] 3 25 2009 HDN  
Wachendorfer Foche, Sylvia J Urban, 2 12 2009, HDN  
Wagner, William L (Randa) {Anschutz} 2 12 2009, HDN  
Walt, Anna Wolf (Zerr) 3 4 2009 , HDN  
Ward - Goodwin, Joe Edwin (Steele) [Hoffman] 1 2 2009, HDN  
Wasinger, Delvin J (Weber) [Robinet] 3 7 2009 HDN  
Weber, Bernita Marie Depperschmidt (Feldt) 3 20 2009, HDN  
Weber, Bil (Schlicher) [Baalman] 3 10 2009, TCJ  
Weber, Elizabeth C Schuster (Aschenbrenner) {Wittman, Heronemus} 2 20 2009, HDN  
Werth, Ronald Ray (Zimmerman) [Nichols] {Klaus} 3 27 2009 HDN  
Wessel, Joan Ann Ryan 2 16 2009 HDN  
Wilcox, Carl O (Bowen) [Townsend] {Burkhart- Schroeder} 3 28 2009 HDN  
Wittman, Elmer (Scheck) [Rohr] 2 21 2009, HDN  
Wittman, Lawrence (Kinderknecht) [Matteson] 3 28 2009 HDN  
Wolf, Elizabeth Albers (Beckman) 1 2 2009 HDN  
Younger, Walter (Gassman) [Staab], 1 12 1996, TCJ  
Zerfas, Gary Lee (Beer) {Bieker} 1 7 2009 HDN  
Zerr, Leona Leiker (Befort) 2 24 2009, HDN  
Zimmerman, Cloyd Leo [Rose Marie] 3 24 2009 Wichita Eagle

#### ROUNDUP of KANSAS AHSGR CHAPTERS

The Roundup will be held in Topeka on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009 at the Ramada Inn. Early planning was delayed by an “unscheduled” snowstorm.

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#### RUSSIAN CONSCRIPTION LISTS

Members of the Volga German List have recently become aware of as yet undeveloped Russian military conscription lists at LDS collections in Salt Lake City. Their potential is currently under investigation.

I want to let everyone know that the conscript list project is moving forward. A translator has been contacted who is very highly regarded, and they will let me know how difficult the work will be, etc. once they receive some films from Salt Lake City. This will likely take a few weeks for delivery, review of the films, etc. The cost is unknown for translation and publication right now, but updates will be made known as soon as they are available. Looking forward to new primary source that has some real promise.

Bill Pickelhaupt, Village Coordinator of Kind, Russia