

51st International Convention of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

AHSGR VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Connections: Keeping our
German Russian Heritage Alive

July 13-15 2021



International



July 13-15, 2021

Making History with our first virtual conference!



INTERNATIONAL

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

Mission Statements



The mission of AHSGR is to discover, collect, preserve, and share the history, cultural heritage, and genealogy of Germanic settlers in the Russian Empire.



INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION

The International Foundation of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia is responsible for exercising financial stewardship to generate, manage, and allocate resources which advance the mission and assist in securing the future of AHSGR.

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Time Tuesday	July 13, 2021 Channel A	July 13, 2021 Channel B
9:00-10:00 am	No session	Welcome, Zoom Orientation Mike Heil, Sue Nakaji, AHSGR Staff
10:15-11:15 am	Opening Keynote Speaker: Hardship to Homeland: Folktales of Pacific Northwest Germans from Russia Richard Scheuerman	No session
11:30 am-12:30 pm	The Intersecting Lives and Fates of Bishop Anton Zerr of the Tiraspol Diocese and the Schmalz Family of Kandel in South Russia Dr. Eric Schmaltz	Letters, genealogy, and emails: How the Volga Germans kept and re-established communication between cousins in the Americas, Germany, and Russia Fabian Zubia Schultheis
12:30 pm-1:30 pm	Lunch	Lunch
1:30- 2:30 pm	The Black Sea German Research Website Carolyn Schott and Gayla Aspenleiter	What's new in Family Tree Maker Mark Olsen
2:45-3:45 pm	The Road to Warenburg: Interpreting a Village with Maps and Images Richard Kisling in collaboration with Ronald Brott	Growing Up German-Russian without Realizing it ! Mervin Weiss
4:00-5:00 pm	A Volga German Foodways Documentary Michael Miller and Dodie Rotherham	Making Strawberry Vereneke (verenicks) from our Central CA chapter cookbook Connie (Engelman) Coberly Jim Deis, videographer
Time Wednesday	July 14, 2021 Channel A	July 14, 2021 Channel B
9:00-10:00 am	Germans from Russia Traveled! Finding Germans from Russia in U.S. Passport Records Allyn Brosz	Researching Your Genealogy in Russian Archives Mila Koretnikov
10:15-11:15 am	Keynote Speaker Annual Meeting Cultural Differences among Germans from Russia Wilhelm G. Doos MD	No session
11:30 am-12:30 pm	AHSGR Annual meeting AHSGR President Mike Heil	No session
12:30 pm-1:30 pm	Lunch	Lunch

1:30- 2:30 pm	Odessa! Notes on a Roots Journey to the Black Sea Debra Marquart	Cousins (DNA + Genealogy) Lee Macklin, MBA, MIS
2:45-3:45 pm	Is My Name Schreiber or Becker?-How One Volga German Solved a Mystery and Found Their Ancestral Home in Germany. Steve Schreiber	Russian German Dialects in Kansas William Keel
4:00-5:00 pm	Mennonites in California: Beyond the Stereotypes Kevin Enns-Rempel	Storytelling Contest winners Various
Time Thursday	July 15, 2021 Channel A	July 15, 2021 Channel B
9:00-10:00 am	Germans in the Towns of Tsarist Russia and the early Soviet State Reinhard Nachtigal	The Russian German Community in World War I: A prelude to life in the Soviet Union. Ulrich Merten
10:15-11:15 am	Cultural Evolution of a Russian German family Wilhelm G. Doos MD	Passports to Freedom - The Immigration of the Germans from Russia to America Dodie, Mila, Sara, Nathan, Jonathan, Cheryl, Sue, Kevin
11:30 am-12:30 pm	German Origins: Challenges and Solutions Maggie Hein	Germans from Russia and the Railroads: A Continued Investigation Bob Lettenberger
12:30 pm-1:30 pm	Lunch	Lunch
1:30- 2:30 pm	Identifying Volga German First Settlers in Danish and Schleswig Parish Records Wayne H. Bonner	Importance of Family History in Genealogy Work Rachel Trotter, Evalogue
2:45-3:45 pm	The Gemütlichkeit of Poetry Sharon (Grenz) Chmielarz	Carrying on the Needlework Traditions of the Volga German Women Debbie Hearne, Shari Mehling Stone, Annette Adams, Dee Hert and Dave Hert
4:00-5:00 pm	Go North Young Man: The Remarkable story of Germans from Russia Immigration from the US to the Canadian Prairies 1896 to 1914 Wayne Garman	"If God Would Have Mercy": Post-WWII German-Russian Refugee Letters Torie Jones
5:00-5:30 pm	Prizes, Conference Wrap-up Mike Heil, Sue Nakaji, Cheryl Glanz	No session

Session Schedule and Descriptions

U.S. Central Standard Time

Monday, July 12

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Board of Directors meeting

Tuesday, July 13

9:00-10:00 a.m. **Zoom B**

Welcome, Zoom Orientation

Mike Heil, Staff

Welcome session and Zoom help for anyone having difficulty signing on to Zoom.

10:15-11:15 a.m., **Zoom A**

Hardship to Homeland: Folktales of Pacific Northwest Germans from Russia

Opening Keynote Speaker

Richard Scheuerman

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., **Zoom A**

The Intersecting Lives and Fates of Bishop Anton Zerr of the Tiraspol Diocese and the Schmalz Family of Kandel in South Russia

Dr. Eric J. Schmaltz

Based on available family, village, and archival records, this presentation reclaims a powerful story of hardship and perseverance of one ethnic German family, the Schmalzes, near Odessa in western Ukraine during a period of intensifying Communist oppression and terror and, eventually, brutal world war. The Schmalz family also provides a backdrop to the last troubled days of Anton Zerr (1849-1932), the former Bishop of Tiraspol in South Russia. Under harassment and on the run from Soviet authorities, the ailing and elderly bishop died in the home of the widow Barbara (Becker) Schmalz (1899-1937) and her seven children in the German Catholic village of Kandel (today Lymanske). Barbara's personal care of the bishop and the village's public funeral held in the cleric's honor each stood as acts of political defiance in the eyes of the authorities, which led to further bloodshed and loss in the coming years. The historical reconstruction of events, locations, and personalities weaves together the different personal fates of the bishop and his caretakers, not least of all that of Barbara's oldest daughter Emma (Schmalz) Rieger (1918-2008), whose own dramatic odyssey extends beyond Ukraine to Germany and North America. The rediscovery and commemoration of the bishop's nearly forgotten grave in Lymanske several years ago has only begun to help bring a sense of closure to that time of tribulations.

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., **Zoom B**

Letters, genealogy, and emails: How the Volga Germans kept and re-established communication between cousins in the Americas, Germany, and Russia

Fabian Zubia Schultheis

This presentation will show the diverse ways that families who migrated from Germany to Russia in 1766 and later between 1875 and 1915 from Russia to the Americas continued having contacts through letters in the 20th century and emails in the last decades. And also show how the genealogical researchers re-connected members of these families across the world, from the Americas to Europe.

12:30-1:30 p.m., **Lunch**

1:30-2:30 p.m., **Zoom A**

The Black Sea German Research Website

Carolyn Schott, Gayla Aspenleiter

Looking for your Black Sea German ancestors? Come on a tour of this research website. Learn tricks for searching the database of 2.5 million individuals, finding resources for your village of interest (including photos and maps), and connecting with distant cousins. You'll leave this presentation well equipped to make use of everything the website has to offer.

1:30-2:30 p.m., **Zoom B**

What's new in Family Tree Maker

Mark Olsen

Join us for a discussion and Q and A session to answer all your questions about Family Tree Maker, the latest version, updates, features and more.

We will also talk about FTM partner products - Charting Companion and Family Book Creator - both amazing plugs-ins that can help you create amazing charts, books, and even show how you can make additional finds with your DNA test results. This class is for all levels of genealogists whether you are just getting started or very experienced.

2:45-3:45 p.m., **Zoom A**

The Road to Warenburg: Interpreting a Village with Maps and Images

Richard Kisling in collaboration with Ronald Brott

The presentation, "The Road to Warenburg: Interpreting a Village with Maps and Photos," uses visual resources to develop understanding of how the people in one colony—Warenburg on the Volga—learned to thrive in their large environment between the Volga River and the steppe. Materials include topographic maps developed by the Red Army in the 1930s, an aerial photo of the village taken by the Luftwaffe in 1942, drawings from 1898 of the pipe organ that was installed in the church balcony, and numerous historical and contemporary photographs of the church and other buildings in the village.

2:45-3:45 p.m., **Zoom B**

Growing Up German-Russian without Realizing it !

Mervin Weiss

I grew up in a predominantly German-Russian community. I knew that we were German people, but it did not feel distinct, unique or special because everyone in our circle of neighbors, friends, and relatives was also German. I did not appreciate my "Germanness" until much later in life. In fact I was 50 yrs old before I began to think about what my German identity meant to me. As I began to research my family's genealogy, I became aware that my Grandfather Weiss was the only one of his siblings to emigrate. Three brothers and three sisters remained in Russia. I began to wonder whatever happened to them, and to their descendants, and I began to search for them. I have now connected with many "cousins" in Germany, having re-located there after 1989, and I began to visit them over several years. Meeting them, and hearing their stories of life in Russia, has given me a much greater appreciation of my German identity.

4:00-5:00 p.m. **Zoom A**

A Volga German Foodways Documentary

Michael Miller & Dodie Rotherham

The presentation, "A Volga German Foodways Documentary", will share plans for filming and interviews with persons in their kitchens in Lincoln, NE, Hays, KS, and northern Colorado including traditional Volga German foods such as Grebble, Runza, pickled watermelon, Kraut and Brei and Kuchen. Filming will also be done at Volga German bakeries, meat markets, cafes, and events. Video clips will be shown from Prairie Public's popular 2017, "Gutes Essen: Good Eating in German-Russian Country". Ten award-winning documentaries have been produced by Prairie public of the Germans from Russia Series beginning with The Germans from Russia: Children of the Steppe, Children of the Prairie (1999) and the latest, "Women Behind the Plow"

(2019). Dodie Rotherham, former President of AHSGR, and Michael Miller, Executive Producer of the documentaries, will share further information.

4:00-5:00 p.m. **Zoom B**

Making Strawberry Vereneke (verenicks) from our Central California Chapter cookbook

Connie (Engelman) Coberly, Jim Deis, videographer

Close your eyes and picture yourself in your Mother or Grandmother's kitchen. What wonderful aromas are in the air. You never took the time to learn how to make some of these foods or have forgotten how. This video, filmed and edited by Jim Deis, gives good instructions for making one of these dishes, Strawberry Verenika. When you're done watching you should be able to make this German from Russia Dish.

Wednesday, July 14

9:00-10:00 a.m., **Zoom A**

Germans from Russia Traveled! Finding Germans from Russia in U.S. Passport Records

Allyn Brosz

The story of the ethnic German exodus from Russia is usually told as a story of farewell to ancestors, deep mourning, and, once they arrived in America, a keenly felt sense of "Heimweh" or homesickness for the land they would never see again. While that was true for many, another story can also be told. Hundreds, if not thousands, of Germans from Russia would travel abroad, either back to their homeland or to other far corners of the earth, relying on the aid and protection of the U.S. passports they now carried as naturalized citizens. Some would return to their home village to bring other family members to America or to claim the inheritance passed on by a departed relative. Others would serve as missionaries in China, India, and South America. This presentation will discuss the methods of finding the U.S. passport application files and evaluating the information they contain that can enrich the family story.

9:00-10:00 a.m. **Zoom B**

Researching Your Genealogy in Russian Archives

Mila Koretnikov

This presentation will focus on the availability of GR records in Russian archives today. Where are they? How to contact the archives? What to expect? I am going to share the samples of available records and recent photos of visiting the archives in Saratov, Engels and Volgograd. Current projects will be mentioned as well.

Much of the information provided is contained in the following publication: *Russian-German Genealogy: Tips for Family Research in Russian Archives* by Mila Koretnikov. Journal of AHSGR, Fall 2020. Volume 43, No. 3. Pp. 31-37.

10:15-11:15 a.m., **Zoom A**

Cultural Differences among Germans from Russia

AHSGR Annual Meeting Featured Speaker

Wilhelm G. Doos, MD

About a dozen years ago I was taking a coffee break during an AHSGR Convention and happened to be sitting near a group that was having a conversation about Volga Germans. They were discussing recipes, words, phrases, traditions, dress, etc. There was some debate, and at one occasion the debate became quite heated and almost changed to an argument about which Volga German traditions were correct. Listening to this debate it occurred to me that what they were doing is debating the cultural elements that were passed down to them within their own families, which evolved in their respective villages, which came from various regions in the German speaking area of Northern Europe, and depended on where they settled in Russia, how they interacted with the native culture, how long they lived there and finally

where they finally moved to and how they interacted with their new host culture. It occurred to me that although the Volga German diaspora, and Germans from Russia in general, was a unique group, their cultural expression was in fact somewhat variable depending on a variety of factors.

In view of this I've begun studying the cultural evolution of the Germans from Russia Diaspora with emphasis on: where they came from, where they settled, how they interacted with the host culture, how they moved around, what the forces were to assimilate or not, and where they eventually immigrated to. During this 51st AHSGR Virtual Convention I will have two presentations dealing with the Russian German Diaspora as a whole, some comment on evolution of a number of villages, and finally to focus on the individuals in the Doos family and how this entire family has evolved since 1767. Hopefully these presentations will stimulate others to do similar studies and add to or challenge the conclusions I will present.

11:30 a.m-12:30 p.m., **Zoom A**
AHSGR Annual meeting

Mike Heil

Find out what is happening at the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. There will be information about our new website and other ongoing projects; Board of Directors elections and voting on changes to our By-Laws.

12:30-1:30 p.m., **Lunch**

1:30-2:30 p.m., **Zoom A**
Odessa! Notes on a Roots Journey to the Black Sea

Debra Marquart

My own grandfathers had no detailed memories of their childhood villages in the Kutschurgan and Glückstal regions in south Russia. They had fled their Black Sea villages to come to the Dakota Territory with their parents between 1886 and 1911. When they died, Odessa—the largest city in the region—was listed as the place of birth on their funeral cards, and as they and all their siblings died one by one through the sixties and seventies, something of the exotic went with them.

And so it is with loss: eventually all one is left with is words. So it happened that in 1998, I decided to retrace my ancestors' route from western Europe to the Black Sea in 1803, and to visit the villages they left behind near the Black Sea when they came to America. This presentation is a recounting of what turned out to be a rather disastrous roots journey to find the home-ground of my ancestors.

1:30-2:30 p.m., **Zoom B**
Cousins (DNA + Genealogy)

Lee Macklin, MBA, MIS

It can often be confusing when trying to determine how you might be related to someone. Especially when it comes to cousins who may be the result of an adoption, an ancestor having multiple marriages, or generational and geographic differences.

When you run into roadblocks using traditional genealogy methods, then DNA may provide the answer you have been looking for. DNA is a special and very powerful tool in your genealogy toolbox because it will tell you what your body is saying about your extended family relationships.

This presentation takes a deep dive into explaining the key concepts with many clear and easy to understand charts and diagrams. You will be able to determine how you are related to all

kinds of people — some of them may be a complete surprise. It is a really good feeling of satisfaction you get when you find that one person you have been searching for!!

So, you don't want to miss this presentation to learn new things about the magic of DNA.

2:45-3:45 p.m., **Zoom A**

Is My Name Schreiber or Becker?-How One Volga German Solved a Mystery and Found Their Ancestral Home in Germany.

Steve Schreiber

For years, a “brick wall” obscured the place of origin of Steve’s ancestor who migrated to Russia in 1766 and settled in the colony of Norka. Join Steve as he unravels the mystery and confronts the unsettling possibility that his family name might be Becker rather than Schreiber. This is an inspirational story that demonstrates that “brick walls” can be broken down, revealing new discoveries.

2:45-3:45 p.m., **Zoom B**

Russian German Dialects in Kansas

William Keel

Kansas was largely settled in the second half of the 19th century which occurred at the same time as the arrival of German-speaking immigrants from the Russian Empire in the US. Thousands of these Russian-German immigrants were attracted to farmland in Kansas by the transcontinental railroads being built at that time. Until the late 20th century, many of the descendants of these 19th-century immigrants continued to speak and understand the dialects brought by their ancestors to Kansas. They were joined on the Great Plains of Kansas by a new group of Russian German immigrants beginning in the late 20th century from Chihuahua, Mexico, drawn by jobs in the feedlots of southwestern Kansas. This newer group of Russian Germans continues to use their version of Low German in the home and in worship. We will explore the varieties of German dialects spoken by Russian-German immigrants ranging from Middle German dialects brought by immigrants from the Volga and Volhynia as well as the Low German dialects of several Mennonite immigrant groups and consider the future of these endangered German dialects on the Great Plains.

4:00-5:00 p.m., **Zoom A**

Mennonites in California: Beyond the Stereotypes

Kevin Enns-Rempel

“Mennonites in California”—the very idea strikes many as incongruous. The typical Californian, whose knowledge of Mennonites stops somewhere this side of Old Order Amish, are surprised to learn that such people reside in their state. Many Mennonites, whose knowledge of California stops somewhere around Hollywood, question how any fellow church member could live in such a flashy and unconventional place. Perhaps part of the reason for this mutual consternation is that such assumptions about both Mennonites and California are over-simplifications. Could it be that Mennonites are more complex than their “quiet in the land” image suggests? Could it be that California is more than the pop-culture images it projects to the rest of the world?

4:00-5:00 p.m. **Zoom B**

Storytelling Contest winners: John Herold and Wilhelm Doos

The winners for the 2021 AHSGR Storytelling Contest are:

1st Place: *Millionaires and Paupers: A German Russian Tale*, by John C. Herold;

2nd Place: *My Religious Heritage As A German from Russia*, by Wilhelm G. Doos;

and 3rd Place: *Pinch of Salt*, by Bro. Placid Gross. Two of the winners, John and Bill will share their stories in this session.

Thursday, July 15

9:00-10:00 a.m., **Zoom A**

Germans in the Towns of Tsarist Russia and the early Soviet State

Reinhard Nachtigal

A thorough discussion of the Urban Germans located in the larger cities in Russia, comparing census enumerations and other minorities found in the same cities.

9:00-10:00 a.m., **Zoom B**

The Russian German Community in World War I: A prelude to life in the Soviet Union.

Ulrich Merten

In this session, Ulrich will explore the Revocation of Special Privileges of the German Russian colonists, including the actions of Alexander II in eliminating the exemption from military service; and the actions of Alexander III; his russification policy that eliminated the German school system of the colonists. World War I, the effect on the morale of the German Russians, war service in the Russian military, primarily on the Caucasus front; the expropriation of German land in Volhynia, and further expropriation measures of German lands by the Imperial Regime Restitution.

10:15-11:15 a.m., **Zoom A**

Cultural Evolution of a Russian German family

Wilhelm G. Doos, MD

This session will focus on a study of the cultural evolution of the Germans from Russia Diaspora with emphasis on: where they came from, where they settled, how they interacted with the host culture, how they moved around, what the forces were to assimilate or not, and where they eventually immigrated to. During the second presentation I will discuss the Russian German Diaspora as a whole, some comment on evolution of a number of villages, and finally to focus on the individuals in the Doos family and how this entire family has evolved since 1767. Hopefully these presentations will stimulate others to do similar studies and add to or challenge the conclusions I will present.

10:15-11:15 a.m., **Zoom B**

Passports to Freedom - The Immigration of the Germans from Russia to America, Collections from the State Archives of Saratov

Dodie Rotherham, Nathan Harris, Sara Roberts, Mila Koretnikov, Cheryl Glanz, Kevin Rupp, Sue Nakaji

AHSGR has obtained, through the dedicated work of Mila Koretnikov and the State Archives of the Saratov Region, Russia, approximately 10,000 names of Individuals who applied for passports to leave Russia between 1877 -1912. The project will be presented to members during the "Passports to Freedom" project session during the virtual convention. The session will include information on how the passports were obtained and how members will be able to order the transcribed, translated copies of family members passports.

11:30 a.m-12:30 p.m., **Zoom A**

German Origins: Challenges and Solutions

Maggie Hein

Using examples from recent successful research, Maggie will discuss the resources you can use to locate your ancestor's German Origin location. Step-by-step examples will highlight common problems and challenges in identifying locations and accessing records. This presentation is appropriate for all levels of research experience.

11:30 a.m-12:30 p.m., **Zoom B**

Germans from Russia and the Railroads: A Continued Investigation

Bob Lettenberger, education director-National Railroad Museum

Bob will present material showing how immigrant families traveled by train, on which railroads and where further research can be conducted into those particular railroads. An additional research tool for the genealogical workbench.

12:30-1:30 p.m., **Lunch**

1:30-2:30 p.m., **Zoom A**

Identifying Volga German First Settlers in Danish and Schleswig Parish Records

Wayne H. Bonner

Although virtually all members of AHSGR have heard the story of Catharine the Great and her manifesto of 1763 inviting settlement in Russia, not everyone is aware of the population movements that occurred prior to that epic migration. Numerous Germans, primarily from the present German states of Baden-Wurttemberg and the Palatine (Pfalz), relocated to Brandenburg beginning in the 1740s where Frederick the Great was building his new capitol of Berlin and required skilled laborers. Still others, estimated to have been at least 5,000, answered the invitation of Frederick V of Denmark beginning in 1759 to settle unimproved land in the regions of Jutland and the Duchy of Schleswig

The Danish settlement movement has been studied for some time, but most of the works were written in German or Danish and not generally available to researchers in North America. However, in 2012 Drs. Alexander, Jacob and Mary Eichhorn produced a volume that will stand for years as the principle investigation of the Danish "experience" as I call it. My presentation will not delve so much into the history of this settlement, but instead will discuss the specific parish records that the Eichhorn research alludes to.

The parish records of Denmark, which at the time included much of present-day Schleswig, were researched for clues to events associated with the German "Colonists" as they were designated. During this period, children were born, marriages were performed and colonists died. By examining virtually all of the currently accessible parish records of Jutland and Schleswig for the time span between 1759 and 1766, Mike Meisinger, Herb Femling and I have been able to identify some 500 entries that can be tied to specific German-Russian settlers. Not only has this project identified these records and therefore added to the growing list of origins for many Volga settlers, but also provided important clues to some of their origins in Germany.

In this presentation, I will discuss specific examples of some of our findings. Although my effort emphasizes examples of records associated with Balzer and Moor settlers, additional parish records were identified of settlers to thirty-two other German-Russian colonies. Prior to the convention a full copy of these records has been distributed to the AHSGR village coordinator group.

1:30-2:30 p.m., **Zoom B**

Importance of Family History in Genealogy Work: Oral history: A crucial piece in family history

Rachel Trotter, Evalogue

Learn how to create a terrific family history for yourself or family members - living or dead - using oral history. This class will teach you how to prepare for the best interviews, ask the best questions and use the best materials & technology to put you on the road to recording and writing personal or family histories. We will explore how to use oral history to even capture stories of those who have passed on and how to help people to talk about the hard things in their life and why it is important. Attendees will also enjoy some interactive time to see how the process

can work and how asking questions can jog the memory quickly. Attendees will learn why oral history can be one of the most important steps to creating the best stories.

2:45-3:45 p.m., **Zoom A**

The Gemütlichkeit of Poetry

Sharon (Grenz) Chmielarz

Don't miss listening and responding to Sharon (Grenz) Chmielarz's poetry. She's read from New York to California about her heritage. In May the South Dakota Poetry Society named her the 2021 South Dakota Poet of Merit.

2:45-3:45 p.m., **Zoom B**

Carrying on the Needlework Traditions of the Volga German Women

Debbie Hearne, Shari Mehling Stone, Annette Adams, Dee Hert and Dave Hert.

Discussion and presentation will include a quilt bed turning focusing on antique quilts, family heirlooms and quilts of today made by Volga German women and descendants. Crochet work and hand embroidery will be featured done by a Volga German immigrant. Tatting and discussion of the technique will be presented that was completed by Volga German descendants.

4:00-5:00 p.m., **Zoom A**

Go North Young Man: The Remarkable story of Germans from Russia Immigration from the US to the Canadian Prairies 1896 to 1914.

Wayne Garman

Many of our Germans from Russia ancestors emigrated to Canada after their initial arrival in the United States. Today, many Germans from Russia Families have relatives on both sides of the border. Why did this pattern of immigration occur?

My presentation will tell the remarkable story of why immigration from the US to the Canadian prairies flourished during the years from 1896 to 1914. I will explain the geographic, economic, and political factors that each played a role in another immigration journey for our Canadian ancestors.

4:00-5:00 p.m., **Zoom B**

"If God Would Have Mercy": Post-WWII German-Russian Refugee Letters

Torie Jones

5:00-5:30 p.m. Awards, Prizes

Mike Heil, Cheryl Glanz, Sue Nakaji

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Sue Nakaji, AHSGR Board member and President of the California District Council

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Katie Stanoscheck, Office Assistant

SPECIAL CITATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Delores Giebelhaus Schwartz, 2014 Lincoln, Neb.
Frank McLean, 2012 Portland, Ore.
Rachel Smith, 2011 Salt Lake City
John & Marcella Wark, 2011 Salt Lake City
John Weber, 2010 Lincoln, Neb.
Phil Dinges, 2010 Lincoln, Neb.
Ted Gerk, 2006 Lincoln, Neb.
Teresa Helzer, 2006 Lincoln, Neb.
Marie Krieger, 2006 Lincoln, Neb.
Patrice Miller, 2006 Lincoln, Neb.
JoAnn Kuhr, 1999 Casper, Wyo.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Lewis Marquardt, Austin, TX, 2019
Dr. Dona Reeves Marquardt, Austin, TX, 2019
Donita (Dodie) Rotherham, San Diego, CA, 2018
Dr. Wilhelm (Bill) Doos, Milwaukee, WI, 2017
Larry Bohlender, Greeley, CO, 2016
Samuel Dreith, Denver, CO, 2016
Dr. Robert Janke, Schoolcraft, MI, 2016
Leona Janke, Schoolcraft, MI, 2016
Mabel Kiessling, Calgary, AB, Canada, 2015
Leona Mann, Calgary, AB, Canada, 2015
Norma Somerheiser, Lincoln, NE 2015
Corinne Koehler, Arvada, CO, 2014
Kevin Rupp, Hays, KS, 2014
Jim Weibert, Rocklin, CA, 2013
Dr. Jerome Siebert, Moraga, CA, 2012
Clarence Kissler, Littleton, CO, 2011
Harley Behm, Portage, MI, 2011
Ed Hoak, Long Grove, IL, 2010
Nick & Barbara Bretz, Arvada, CO, 2009
Dennis Zitterkopf, Wichita, KS, 2009
Mayo Flegel, Mankato, MN, 2008
Raymond Pfau, Racine, WI, 2008 (Posthumous)
Diana Bell, Fresno, CA, 2007
Edward Schwartzkopf, Lincoln, NE, 2007 (Posthumous)
Doris Evans, Almira, WA, 2006
Kathryn O'Malley, Mt. Ida, AR, 2005 (Posthumous)
Edwin Rau, Fresno, CA, 2005 (Posthumous)
Elaine Frank Davison, Walla Walla, WA, 2004 (Posthumous)
J. Paul Hile, Fairfax, VA, 2004
George Miller, Naperville, IL, 2003
Dr. Timothy J. Kloberdanz, Fargo, ND, 1999
Dr. Solomon Reinhold Schneider, Fort Collins, CO, 1999
Leona Pfeifer, Hays, KS, 1998
Margaret (Zimmerman) Freeman, Santa Monica, CA, 1997
Martha Issinghoff, Dodge City, KS, 1996
Gerda Stroh Walker, Denver, CO, 1995
Lawrence Weigel, Hays, KS, 1995
Reuben Goertz, Freeman, SD, 1994 (Posthumous)
Mela Meisner Lindsay, Denver, CO, 1994
Jacob "Jake" Sinner, Lincoln, NE, 1993
Ruth M. Amen, Lincoln, NE, 1992
Arthur E. Flegel, Menlo Park, CA, 1992
Dr. David J. Miller, Greeley, CO, 1992
Dr. Adam Giesinger, Winnipeg, MB, Canada 1991

SPECIAL CITATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Pam Wurst, Lincoln, NE, 2017
Gwen Meyer, 2017 Milwaukee, WI
Merrill Crandall, 2017 Milwaukee, WI
Judy Runion, 2017 Milwaukee, WI
Delores Giebelhaus Schwartz, 2014 Lincoln, NE
Frank McLean, 2012 Portland, OR
Rachel Smith, 2011 Salt Lake City, UT
John & Marcella Wark, 2011 Salt Lake City, UT
John Weber, 2010 Lincoln, NE
Phil Dinges, 2010 Lincoln, NE
Ted Gerk, 2006 Lincoln, NE
Teresa Helzer, 2006 Lincoln, NE
Marie Krieger, 2006 Lincoln, NE
Patrice Miller, 2006 Lincoln, NE
JoAnn Kuhr, 1999 Casper, WY

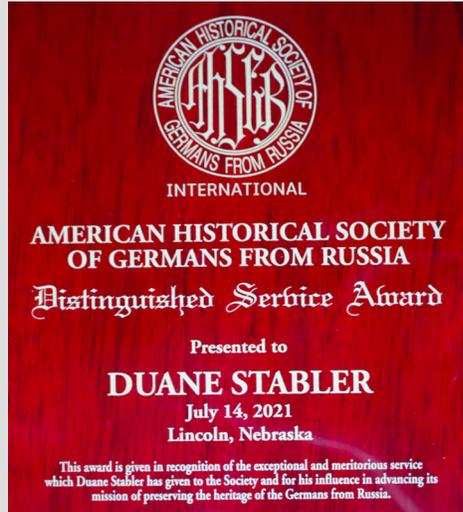
SITES OF PAST CONVENTIONS

1976 Denver, Colo.	1999 Casper, Wyo.
1977 San Francisco, Calif.	2000 Lincoln, Neb.
1978 Lincoln, Neb.	2001 Denver, Colo.
1979 Seattle, Wash.	2002 Des Moines, Iowa
1980 Dearborn, Mich.	2003 Yakima, Wash.
1981 Minneapolis, Minn.	2004 Modesto, Calif.
1982 Wichita, Kan.	2005 Oklahoma City, Okla.
1983 Lincoln, Neb.	2006 Lincoln, Neb.
1984 Regina, Saskatchewan	2007 Hays, Kan.
1985 Yakima, Wash.	2008 Casper, Wyo.
1986 Oklahoma City, Okla.	2009 Medicine Hat, Alberta
1987 Portland, Ore.	2010 Lincoln, Neb.
1988 Milwaukee, Wis.	2011 Salt Lake City, Utah
1989 Lincoln, Neb.	2012 Portland, Ore.
1990 Sacramento, Calif.	2013 Fort Collins, Colo.
1991 Chicago, Ill.	2014 Lincoln, Neb.
1992 Seattle, Wash.	2015 Billings, Mont.
1993 Denver, Colo.	2016 Concord, CA
1994 Lincoln, Neb.	2017 Milwaukee, WI
1995 Calgary, Alberta	2018 Hays, Kansas
1996 Minneapolis, Minn.	2019 Lincoln, Nebraska
1997 San Jose, Calif.	2020 [Canceled to pandemic]
1998 Wichita, Kan.	2021 ZOOM

**American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Distinguished Service Award
Presented to Duane Stabler
July 14, 2021**



DUANE STABLER



Displayed in AHSGR Museum

This award is given in recognition of the exceptional and meritorious service which Duane Stabler has given to the Society and for his influence in advancing its mission of preserving the heritage of the Germans from Russia.

Duane Stabler's ancestors immigrated to South Dakota from Klein Neudorf (Glueckstal), Hoffnungstal (Odessa and Bessarabia) and Worms (Beresan). He was raised in Eureka, South Dakota, and attended Northern State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree. Duane married Dorothy Wangler whose ancestors also are from colonies in the Black Sea region.

Duane's interest in his heritage began when he was about six years old and fascinated to hear that his grandfather was born in Russia. While living in Minnesota in 1982 where he was employed by Seagate Technology, he read about the North Star Chapter of Minnesota and joined AHSGR and the chapter at that time. In 1988 he attended his first AHSGR convention which was held in Milwaukee. That was where he met Arthur Flegel who identified Duane as a Glueckstaller. That, in turn, led Duane to become involved in the Glueckstal Colonies Research Association where he is now the leader of the group. Duane served in many capacities for the North Star Chapter, including president, vice president of membership, director, and webmaster. Through his efforts, the North Star Chapter became an affiliated chapter of both AHSGR and the German Russian Heritage Society (GRHS) in about 2005.

In 2018 Duane and Dorothy retired to Frisco, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. Six months after arriving he hosted the first meeting to determine whether there was interest in starting the North Texas Chapter of Germans from Russia – and there was. The chapter participated in a local Texas Genealogy Expo in 2019 and was featured in the Dallas Genealogy Society newsletter. The chapter was chartered as a joint chapter of AHSGR and GRHS and by early 2020 had grown to about 50 members.

According to members of his chapter, "Duane's way of letting the membership decide on the path we wanted to take made it 'our' chapter and not 'his new chapter,' by creating an atmosphere of ownership. ... The chapter now has a growing library, Facebook presence, newsletter and website. ... He has continued to promote Germans from Russia and our chapter via email. He is also active in networking with others interested in genealogy in general and serving as a speaker for meetings and webinars."

When not working on Germans from Russia activities, Duane doesn't stray far from his love of genealogy, culture and history. He is an avid postcard collector (his collection numbers more than 5,000) and the library at Duane's alma mater recently exhibited 70 vintage cards from his collection. They were images of towns and rural locations known for having a substantial community of Germans from Russia. Duane is the author of a research guide to McPherson County, South Dakota, Cemeteries and author of other historical articles.

AHSGR CHAPTERS AND PRESIDENTS

AHSGR CHAPTERS and President or Contact Person	Southern California Chap- ter David Karber Long Beach, CA	MINNESOTA North Star of Minnesota Chapter Paul Maggitti Minneapolis, MN	TEXAS North Texas Germans from Russia Duane Stabler Frisco, TX
CANADA			
ALBERTA Calgary Chapter Ken Heinrich Calgary, AB	COLORADO Denver Metro Chapter Shirley Wilcoxon Arvada, CO	MISSOURI Greater Kansas City Chap- ter Ron Zitterkopf	UTAH Intermountain Chapter Vicki Strong
Edmonton & District Chapter Rudi Grab Leduc, AB	Northern Colorado Chap- ter Lauren Brantner La Salle, CO	MONTANA Yellowstone Valley Chap- ter Sharon Hamill Billings, MT	WASHINGTON, DC AREA National's Capital Area Chapter Allyn Brosz Washington, D.C.
SASKATCHEWAN Regina & District Chapter Alvin Knoll Regina, SK	ILLINOIS Northern Illinois Chapter Duane Funk	NEBRASKA Lincoln Chapter Paul Loos Lincoln, NE	WASHINGTON Blue Mountain Chapter Charles Saranto Touchet, WA
UNITED STATES	IOWA Wildrose Chapter of Iowa John Groh Johnston, IA	Nebraska Panhandle Chapter Richard Kuxhausen Scottsbluff, NE	Central Washington Chapter Becky Miller Yakima, WA
ARIZONA Arizona Sun Chapter Judy Gareis Apache Junction, AZ	KANSAS Golden Wheat Chapter Karen Suderman Penner Newton, KS	Sutton Area Chapter Elizabeth Hoffman Sutton, NE	Greater Seattle Chapter Jean Roth Seattle, WA
CALIFORNIA Central California Chapter Connie Coberly Fresno, CA	Northeast Kansas Chapter Mike Grau Topeka, KS	OKLAHOMA Central Oklahoma Chap- ter LaDonna Hunt Oklahoma City, OK	Olympic Peninsula Chap- ter Marva McKenzie Sequim, WA
Golden Gate Chapter Tom Brewster Morgan Hill, CA	Sunflower Chapter Kevin Rupp Hays, KS	Golden Spread Chapter Earl Schoenhals Shattuck, OK	WISCONSIN Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter Christina Zahn New Berlin, WI
Lodi, California Chapter Lilli Henricksen Lodi, CA	www.sunflowerchaptero- fahsgr.net		
Sacramento Valley Chap- ter of Germans from Russia Lee Macklin www.svcgr.org	MICHIGAN Flint Michigan Chapter Ted Yuk Flushing, MI	OREGON Oregon Chapter Carole Hayden Portland, OR	Great Sheboygan Chapter Jim Mohr Sheboygan, WI FB: Greater Sheboygan Chapter of AHSGR
	Saginaw Valley Chapter James Harris Saginaw, MI		

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
Village Coordinators

For more information go to www.ahsgr.org/VCS

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Gut Reisenhauer, Berezan, Odessa, Kherson

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Lower Yeruslan River Colonies Research Project

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Lower Volga Villages, Saratov, Volga
Dobrinka, Dreispitz, Galka, Holstein, Kraft,
Mueller, Schwab, Shcherbakovka, Stephen
See individual villages for contacts.

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VC needed
See Birzula

Neusatz, Crimea

VC needed

Neu-Schilling I and II, Samara, Volga

Gary Martens
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Neu-Schönfeld, Samara, Volga

VC needed

Neu-Straub, Samara, Volga

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Neu-Yagodnaya, Samara, Volga

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Nieder-Monjou, Samara, Volga

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Steven Grau
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Norka, Saratov, Volga

Roger Burbank
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Louis Schleuger
Norka Database Coordinator

Oberdorf, Saratov, Volga

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Ober-Monjou, Samara, Volga

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Odessa, Odessa, South Russia

VC needed

Orlovskoye, Samara, Volga

VC needed

Paris, Bessarabia

VC needed

Paulskoye, Samara, Volga

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Pfeifer, Saratov, Volga

Darryl W. Boyd
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Pilenkofed, N. Caususu

Dee Hert
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Pobochnoye, Saratov, Volga

Michael Repp
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Polish Volhynia

Mabel Kiessling
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Preuss, Samara, Volga

VC needed

Rastatt, Berezan, Odessa, Kherson

VC needed

Reichenberg, Luxemburg, Zaporozhye

VC needed

Reinhard(t), Samara, Volga

Brenna Stokes
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Reinwald, Samara, Volga

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Rohleder, Samara, Volga

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Rohrbach, Berezan, Odessa, Kherson

Erwin Ulmer

Rosenberg (Umet), Saratov, Volga

Dr. Richard McGregor
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Rosenfeld (am Jeruslan), Samara, Volga

Roger Burbank
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Rosenfeld, (am Nachoi), Samara, Volga

Anna Dalhaimer Bartkowski
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Rosenfeld, North Caucasus

Dee Hert
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Rosenheim, Samara, Volga

Duane Funk
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Rosental, Crimea

VC needed

Rosental, Samara, Volga

Jeremy Landt
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Rothammel, Saratov, Volga

Nicholas & Barbara Bretz
Rothammeler@aol.com

Joseph Gertge
jgertge@msn.com

Tanja Schell
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Rothammel Mail List (Kathy Frank Jones)
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Sarata, Bessarabia

VC needed

Schaffhausen, Samara, Volga

Jim Parsonage
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Schafer/Schaefer/Lipowka, Volga

Brenna Stokes
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Schellenberg

See Karlstal

Schilling, Samara, Volga

Gary Martens
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Schilling, Saratov, Volga

Gary Martens
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**Schlangendorf, Swedish Colonies,
Nikolaev and Kherson**

VC needed

Schönchen, Samara, Volga

Terri Dann
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Denise Grau

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Schöndorf, Samara, Volga

Michael Repp
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Schönfeld, Samara, Volga

Michael Repp
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Schöntal, Samara, Volga

Michael Repp
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Schuck, Saratov, Volga

Catherine Hawinkels
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Schulz, Samara, Volga

Peter & Judy Kaland (Co-coordinators)
pjkaland@charter.net

Schwab, Saratov, Volga

VC Needed

Schwed, Samara, Volga

Keith Wilberg
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Schwedengebiet

See Swedish Colonies

Seelmann, Samara, Volga

VC needed

Seewald, Saratov, Volga

Nicholas & Barbara Bretz
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Tanja Schell
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Selz, Kuchurgan, Odessa, Kherson

VC needed

Semenovka (Roethling), Volga

VC needed

Shcherbakovka, Saratov, Volga

Janet (Laubhan) Flickinger
janflick@cox.net

Sofiental, Akkerman, Bessarabia

Sylvia M. Hertel
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Speier/Speyer, Berezan, Odessa

VC needed

Stahl am Karaman, Samara, Volga

David F. Schmidt
schmidtdavidf@yahoo.com

Stahl am Tarlyk, Samara, Volga

Paul E. Koehler
PKOE662885@aol.com

Stephan, Saratov, Volga

Robert Miller
robmiller59@gmail.com

**Strassburg, Kuchurgan, Odessa,
Kherson**

VC needed

Strassburg, Samara, Volga

Leland Riffel
Lelandriffel@gmail.com

Strassendorf, Samara, Volga

VC needed

Straub, Samara, Volga

Sharon White
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Streckerau, Samara, Volga

Elisabeth Humphrey
darkrosemoto@gmail.com

Steinfeld, Tbilisi

Dee Hert
deeehert@gmail.com

Sulz, Berezan, Odessa

VC needed

Susannental, Samara, Volga

Kerry S. Thompson
sstevee47@yahoo.com

**Swedish Colonies, Nikolaev and
Kherson**

See colonies of Alt-Schwedendorf, Klosterdorf,
Schlangendorf, and Mühlenhausendorf
VC needed

Taganrog, Rostov

VC needed

Tajikistan

VC needed

Tarutino, Akkerman, Bessarabia

VC Needed

Taurida, Rostov District, South Russia

VC needed

Teplitz, Akkerman, Bessarabia

Sylvia M. Hertel
sdak.goth1@gmail.com

Tiegenhoff, Luxemburg, Zaparozhe

Dee Hert
deeehert@gmail.com

**Tiflis (Tbilisi), Luxemburg, South
Caucasus**

Dee Hert
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Unterdorf, Saratov, Volga

VC needed

Unterwalden/Meinhard, Samara, Volga
VC needed

Urbach, Samara, Volga
Christina B. Zahn
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Vakarskii Khutor, Glückstal, Odessa, Kherson
VC needed
See also Glückstal Colonies Research Association

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Walter, Saratov, Volga
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Village Historian
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Byron Wagner
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Sharon White
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Waterloo, Berezan, Odessa
Erwin Ulmer

Wickerau, Luxemburg, Zaporozhye
VC needed

Wiesenmuller, Samara, Volga
Gary Martens
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Weizenfeld, Samara, Volga
Jeremy Landt
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Winkelmann
See Susannental

Wittman (Soloturn), Samara, Volga
Kevin Rupp
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volgagerman@ruraltel.net

Worms, Berezan, Odessa, Kherson
Erwin Ulmer

Yagodnaya Polyana, Saratov, Volga
Marlene Michel
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Zug (Gattung), Samara, Volga
Kevin Rupp
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volgagerman@ruraltel.net

Zürich (Eckardt), Samara, Volga
Keith Wilberg
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Comparison by Category	June 6, 2021	June 20, 2019	July 2, 2018	June 15, 2017
Life Members	1,151	1,114	1,125	1,094
Sustaining Members	n/a	212	218	274
Standard Members*	1450	1,238	1,343	1,408
Youth & Student Members	21	42	30	31
Organization	22	25	26	31
Exchange	n/a	18	18	18
Basic & Standard	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
New Members	404	406	421	403

Total Membership: 2644

* Combined Standard and Sustaining number

LIFE MEMBERSHIP BY ACTIVE CHAPTER

Arizona Sun	2	Golden Gate	27	North Star	18	Southeastern Wyoming	2
Big Bend	1	Golden Spread	5	Northeast Kansas	18	Southern Nevada	2
Blue Mountain	3	Golden Wheat	19	Northeast Nebraska	1	Southern California	70
Calgary	9	Greater Seattle	25	Northern Colorado	71	Southwest Michigan	1
Central California	41	Greater Spokane	1	Northern Illinois	20	Sunflower	14
Central Oklahoma	11	Heritage Seekers	1	Olympic Peninsula	3	Sutton	0
Central Washington	6	Intermountain	13	Oregon	96	Victoria	1
Colorado High Plains	0	Kansas City Area	1	Post Rock	2	Wildrose	7
Denver Metro	78	Lincoln	61	Regina & District	2	Yellowstone Valley	8
Diablo	2	Lodi	8	Sacramento Valley	38		
Edmonton & District	3	Midlands	2	Saginaw Valley	13	Total Chapter	
Flint	10	Nation's Capital	16	Sheboygan	2	Life Members:	
Fox Valley	1	Nebraska Panhandle	7	Southeast Wisconsin	11	753	

STANDING RULES OF ORDER

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA 2021 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING STANDING RULES OF ORDER

LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITIES:

The Colorado Revised Statutes, as Amended, Title 7: CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS, Articles 20 through 29: Nonprofit Corporations. The Articles of Incorporation as certified by and in the State of Colorado March 25, 1974, and amended August 9, 1974, and the Bylaws, as amended August 17, 2006.

Robert's Rules of Order, current edition, (as required by Bylaws Article X), in all cases not provided for by Colorado State Law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, or the following Standing Rules of Order.

STANDING RULES OF ORDER:

The following rules, adopted by the Board of Trustees and membership, shall prevail during the (year) Annual Meeting and, as appropriate, to Foundation business during the Joint Memberships Meeting.

1. Reports of officers shall be in writing, except those of the International Foundation President and Treasurer whose reports are limited to five (5) minutes.
2. Committee reports are limited to five (5) minutes, except for the Finance committee whose report is limited to 10 minutes.
3. A member making a motion must rise, state his/her name, address the Chair, and be recognized. The same rule applies to the member making a second.
4. All motions must be reduced to writing and must be submitted to the Chair at the time the motion is made. Any amendment to the motion as originally proposed must also be submitted in writing to the Chair at the time the amendment is made.
5. If proceedings give rise to discussion, a member may speak three (3) minutes for or against a motion. Timekeepers will present a one (1) minute and a thirty (30) second warning to the member so that he/she may conclude his/her remarks within the three (3) minute limit. A member may speak a second time to the same motion only after all others present and wishing to speak have been heard for the first time.
6. Except where written ballot is required by Robert's Rules of Order or Colorado State Law, all votes will be viva voce. The chair retains the right to require a show of hands or a standing count when a clear majority cannot be easily determined. When written ballot is required by Robert's Rules of Order, the Chair will make provisions for such a vote in an expeditious manner. When written ballot is required by Colorado State Law, the procedures required by the statute will be followed.
7. Except where two-thirds vote is required by the Bylaws, Colorado State Law or these Standing Rules, decisions will be by simple majority.
8. Except as required by Colorado State Law, decisions depend upon those members present at the Annual Meeting and voting. Any member, with just cause, may challenge the right of a person to vote. The roster of paid-up members of AHSGR, as maintained by AHSGR Headquarters staff, will determine a person's eligibility to vote (Reference Bylaws Article I. Membership).
9. Nominations will be governed in accordance with Article IV, Sections C, D, E, and F and Article VI, Section C of the Bylaws. A slate of candidates will be presented by the Nominations Com-

mittee. However, nominations from the floor are in order. Nominations from the floor shall be limited to one nomination speech of two (2) minutes and one seconding speech of one (1) minute for each nominee.

10. If there is only one (1) nominee to fill the Representation District position(s) on the Board of Trustees, a motion may be accepted that the individual(s) be elected by acclamation. All positions having more than one nominee require election by written ballot. A majority vote of the members voting elects.
11. In case of need, these Standing Rules of Order may be suspended by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, except as dictated by the Legal and Parliamentary authorities listed above.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA 2020 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING STANDING RULES OF ORDER

Legal and Parliamentary Authorities:

The Colorado Revised Statutes, as Amended, Title 7: CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS, Articles 20 through 29: Nonprofit Corporations. The Articles of Incorporation as certified in 1968 in the State of Colorado and the Restated Articles of Incorporation adopted June 25, 1977, and the Bylaws as adopted July 8, 2004, shall govern all proceedings of the Society.

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, current edition, in all cases not provided for by Colorado State Law, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, or the following Standing Rules of Order.

Standing Rules of Order:

The following rules adopted by the Board of Directors shall prevail during convention general and business sessions.

1. Members are urged to assemble five (5) minutes before scheduled meeting time.
2. Reports of officers are limited to five (5) minutes (except that of the International President).
3. Committee reports are limited to three (3) minutes. A member making a motion must rise, state his/her name, address the Chair, and be recognized.
4. All motions must be made in writing and must be submitted to the Chair at the time the motion is made. Any amendment to the motion as originally proposed must also be submitted to the Chair in writing at the time the amendment is made.
5. If proceedings give rise to discussion, a member may speak three (3) minutes for or against a motion. Timekeepers will present a one (1) minute and a thirty (30) second warning so the member may conclude his or her remarks within the time limit.
6. A member may speak a second time to the same question only after those present and wishing to speak have had the opportunity.
7. Any member may present a Resolution to the Resolution Committee. Deadline is 24 hours prior to the scheduled Resolutions Committee report. Resolutions shall be presented only through the Resolutions Committee. Resolutions may be handed in at the Convention Registration Desk.
8. These Standing Rules of Order may be suspended by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, except as dictated by the Legal and Parliamentary authorities listed above.

AHSGR Annual Membership Meeting

July 29, 2020

(Special Zoom Conference Call Only Due to COVID-19 Pandemic)

CALL TO ORDER: The annual membership/business meeting was called to order by President Donita Rotherham by 12:11 p.m. CST.

Introduction of AHSGR International Board of Directors Present on Call:

District 1 – Sue Nakaji, Dodie Rotherham (President), Jerry Siebert, Leonard Welch; *District 2* – Rob Miller, Mike Heil; *District 3* – Nancy Borrell, Pam Wurst; *District 4* – Sue Casseday (Interim Treasurer), Shirley Wilcoxon, Delores Tippett, Cheryl Glanz (Secretary); *District 5*- Open; *District 6* – Karen Penner, Mike Meisinger; *District 7* – Harold Penner, Bill Dellos; *District 8* - Bill Doos; *District 9* – Michael Brown; *District 10* – Open; *District 11* – Harvey Fries, Sherry Ertl; *District 12* – Karen Soeken; *District 13* – Marlene Michel, Gerald Sieb; *District 14* – Dennis Zitterkopf, Kevin Rupp;

Absent: Mike Meisinger (Vice President), Richard Davenport, Alexis Kuzmik, Charlotte Lindsey, Dennis Reich, Delores Tippett, Ed Wagner, Christina Zahn

Introduction of IFAHSGR Board of Trustees Present on Call: Don Soeken (President), Don Schenk (Vice President), Sherry Stone (Secretary), Peter Kaland (Treasurer), Paul Deines, Sharon Stone, Annette Reynolds, Don Soeken, Bob Wagner, Peter Kaland

IFAHSGR Absent: Ron Brodt, Liz Hoffman, Donna Hill

Foundation Meeting Summary: *Don Soeken, IFAHSGR President reporting* - US Bank is the holder of Foundation funding for the AHSGR Society; meet three times per year and have been in a conservative mode due to the pandemic environment; Board of Trustees next meeting is Friday, August 7, 2020. No other financial report given.

Introduction of AHSGR Staff Present on Call: Aaron Farber (Executive Director), Allison Hunter-Fredrick (Editorial & Publications Coordinator), Hannah Maakestad (Administrative Assistant).

AHSGR President Appointments for Meeting and Adoption of Standards: Nancy Borrell as reviewer of meeting minutes; minutes accepted. Dodie appointed Karen Soeken as timekeeper and Jerry Siebert as Parliamentarian. Jerry Siebert reported that we are governed by Roberts Rules of Order and AHSGR Bylaws which govern conduct of our meeting. Please state your name when making motions.

AHSGR President's Report: *Dodie Rotherham* – Thank you all for joining our meeting. AHSGR has had many accomplishments and an eventful year with many difficulties, but the society continued on in true form of German Russian (or Russian German) Power! Thank you to all board members, chapter directors and members. Thank you to the Strategic Planning Committee for a fantastic plan. Our *AHSGR Journal* and *AHSGR Newsletter* have been published throughout the year, along with the translation and publishing volumes of information and recently reopening of the Center. Thank you to the AHSGR staff.

We have newly invigorated chapters, such as the merging of the Sacramento Valley and Central California Chapters, and they have a newly developed website all should visit at www.svcgchapter.org. We have a newly formed North Texas Chapter and President Duane Stabler is on this call. Our Membership Committee has been working hard on social media for recruiting new members and Shirley Wilcoxon reports that we have eight areas in the United States seeking guidance for forming new chapters.

Some of the not-so-glamorous work being accomplished are updated Bylaws, an updated Policies and Procedures Manual and an updated Employees Handbook. Work is continuing on updates to Standing Committee Guidelines and Chapter Manuals. Our Museum on campus has new siding, paint, new edging and rock around foundations around outbuildings and a large yard clean-up project in the last year. Our buildings have security updates and we have the Annual Chapters Committee Report you all received in your pre-conference call packets. AHSGR headquarters received part of a grant from a genealogical research focused foundation in Florida, via an outreach to AHSGR from a German Russian descendent from Lincoln, NE. Future allotment of the full grant will happen over time, due to the effect of the COVID pandemic to the funds. The board room will be expanded with the removal of a wall near the research desk and allow for better utilization of the space. As we move into the future, we are dedicating ourselves to the future with a focus on technology. This all needs support financially, and your membership support is needed to continue our work. Look for new formats, colors and branding in the future – In a quick summary, did we accomplish all we wanted to? The answer is that some we did, and some we did not. Expectations keep us moving and growing and thanks to all for your participation and for your support!

Secretary's Report: *Cheryl Glanz* – Thank you to everyone for attending our annual meeting. Our AHSGR International Board of Directors March Meeting minutes were included in your packets and are on file at Headquarters. Quorum reached with 109 participants.

Financial Standings Report and Audit Review for 2019- 2020: *Kerry Gustaffson, Dana Cole & Company* – Thank you to the staff and board of AHSGR for being engaged in the efforts to get the 990 Form completed and filed. You all have received a copy of this in your pre-conference call packets. In a Summary of financial status of the organization fiscal year ending December 31, 2019, the organization is at \$3.6 million with net assets of \$3.5 million. Questions on the form 990 concerning membership were answered at headquarters. If you have any questions on the 990 form for the IRS, please contact Aaron Farber. Bryant and Associates have a report drafted for the yearly audit and this should be forthcoming.

AHSGR Executive Director Report: *Aaron Farber* – Thank you to all for participating via Zoom and thanks to AHSGR staff. The following are some of the highlights for this year:

- Covid 19 pandemic challenges continue, but thanks to the happy dedication of staff and board of directors for support, things are moving forward.

- One success from the pandemic- it has given an opportunity for genealogy enthusiasts to turn to research during this period. Face-to-face contact has slowed, but the passion of researchers has remained steady.
- Outreach is a major focus for Executive Director, Aaron Farber to meet all in the remaining months of this year. Zoom calls with chapter leaders are planned, with a new packet coming to all new chapters.
- Ancestral Records and Editorial and Publications have been keeping Allison busy with posting information on new research materials available for sale.
- Aaron also mentioned that some additional grant opportunities, which were written and submitted earlier this year. Some of the funding from one of them will be used to expand the library through the renovations mentioned earlier by Dodie Rotherham. Aaron will keep us all posted on progress.
- Some of the new mannequins for the museum arrived, with the remainder of the order coming in slowly.
- The new server is installed, with some new computers coming in later.
- AHSGR was also the recipient of a PPP COVID loan, which doesn't need to be reimbursed, for operational funding and payroll.
- We are anticipating the return of Research Librarian, Sara Roberts, in mid-August.

Standing committee reports are posted at ahsgr.org

Vote of the Membership on Bylaws: *Karen Soeken* – Proposed bylaw changes were printed in the Summer Edition of the AHSGR Newsletter, pages 10 -13 and a copy included with this meeting packet. Some of the changes are for clarity purposes as shown in the “Rationale” column. Others needing some review and highlight of the change for this vote are as follows:

- Article V, Section B – Concerning the annual meeting – Proposing a change to the wording that includes “*and notify members at least 60 day prior*” to the annual meeting. This change follows our bylaws about nominations with some consistency.
- Article VI, Section J – Board members sometimes attend via remote access and we would like to have at least one meeting of the Board of Directors each year in which board members meet the requirement to be “*physically present*”. Notably, one meeting occurs in connection with the convention and this could be the easiest way to meet that requirement for some.
- Article VIII, Section A– Discusses the make-up of the Executive Committee, including the immediate Past President. In the event that a vacancy exists on the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors *shall* elect a board member to fill it. Change here from ‘may’ to ‘shall’. This ensures that the Executive Committee will consist of five (5) persons and no position will go vacant.
- Article IX, Section D – Discusses current description of Treasurer roll in interfacing with Headquarters staff alone. In the past, we have contracted accountants, and we are now contracted with an accounting firm. Proposed change: The Treasurer shall: 1. Be responsible and *collaborate with the Executive Committee* to oversee that the Headquarters Staff *and accountant(s)* do the following: etc...Change assigns Treasurer the responsibility to work with the Executive Committee and any contract accountants who are not part of the Headquarters staff.
- Article XII, Section A – Discusses changes to the roll of the Nominating Committee – one that

will allow for more than five (5) people to be nominated to the nominating committee, with no maximums and no minimum restrictions to the former minimum of ten names published on the slate, as not all are known at the time the slate is published with nominations being allowed from the floor. Additionally, a proposed change removes the requirement that consent to being nominated is in writing. Proposed change: The Nominating Committee shall: 1. Consist of *at least* five (5) members appointed by the President within sixty (60) days after adjournment of the annual membership meeting. 2. Publish in the AHSGR Newsletter no later than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting *each year a recommended list of members* to serve on the Board of Directors for three (30) year terms plus one (1) additional member for each unexpired term to be filled.

- Article XII, Section C – Discusses Plurality vote elects; mail ballot and conducting such other mail balloting as may arise. Proposed change allows for electronic voting: 3. Plurality vote elects. Voting will be by mail *or electronic means*. 4. *Send* one ballot, if required, to each membership no later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual membership meeting and require that the election committee receive marked ballots no later than the date marked on the ballot to be valid.

No questions on changes. Prior motion to move adoption of proposed changes in bylaws per past Board of Directors meeting and per newsletter. Vote approved unanimously by membership.

Nominating Committee Report/Call for Nominations: *Harvey Fries, Chair* – For the 2019- 2020 current committee cycle activities, the Nominating Committee met at the in-person October Board of Directors Meeting and at the Zoom Board of Directors Meeting in March to prepare. Cycle two automatically opens ten (10) positions, one due to appointment expiring and candidates were notified and will begin serving for the new membership year. Seven of the ten are filled. Remaining positions will be filled in one three-year term in Districts 5, 10 and 12; two seats opened for one-year terms for Districts 6 and 14 (at large position). Next year will have ten (10) positions.

Nominations procedure: Nominees must be an AHSGR member in good standing within the district. Open positions in District 6 and 8 are filled, cannot have anyone at large from these areas. Person being nominated needs to give approval and seconds are not needed. Please identify yourself when speaking. Unmute the microphone to speak and then set mute.

Board Members that will be serving another term:

Mike Heil	Nominated in March 2020
Sue Nakaji	Nominated in March 2020
Jerry Siebert	Nominated in March 2020
Nancy Borrell	Nominated in March 2020
Harold Penner	Nominated in March 2020

Note from Harvey concerning the new incoming board members:

Sheri Ertl	Nominated in March 2020
Robert Ahlbrandt	Elected July 2020
Winston Boswell	Elected July 2020
Gary Fuchs	Elected July 2020
David Ralston	1 Yr appointment

Board Member serving another appointment:

Dennis Zitterkopf	1 Yr. appointment
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- Nominees taken from the floor –
 - District 5 – 1 position; 3-year term. No response. Closed.
 - District 6 – 1 position; 1-year term. No response. Closed. Unanimous consent for Robert Ahlbrandt from KS.
 - District 10 – 1 position; 3-year term. No response. Closed.
 - District 12 – 1 position; 3-year term. No response. Closed. Unanimous consent for Winston Boswell from FL.
 - District 14 – 1 position; 2-year term. Robyn Morales of Edmonton Canada for at large position. Closed. Note – per Robyn, “If Gary is willing to serve, I will withdraw.” Unanimous consent – *for Gary Fuchs* elected by acclamation.
 - Out of District Appointments for 1-year - Interested members please email Harvey at hdfries@yahoo.com with interest and bio. Can also join on committees, if interested.

Thank you to departing Board Members from Dodie Rotherham. Special mentions: Mike Meisinger from Kansas as the Past Vice President and Ancestral Records Chair. Richard Davenport from Michigan, as a non-German Russian (his wife is). Ed Wagner, formerly serving for Washington and Oregon – thank you for your service. Charlotte Lindsey, formerly serving for District 12 – remaining states. Thank you to Past President, Dennis Reich, my brother, formerly serving for IA, MN & MO.

Note from Harvey on outgoing board members:

Dennis Zitterkopf	1 Yr. appointment expired
Mike Meisinger	Resigned July 2020
Richard Davenport	Term expired did not seek renomination
Ed Wagner	Term expired did not seek renomination
Charlotte Lindsay	Term expired did not seek renomination
Dennis Reich	Term expired did not seek renomination

New Business:

Sue Nakaji, Convention Chair - Reminder about Convention dates – Tuesday, July 27, 2021 – Sunday, August 1, 2021 in Pasco, WA. Anyone wanting to serve on a committee or volunteer, please let Sue know. An online convention on Zoom can also promote headquarters with a tour of the grounds.

Shirley Wilcoxon, Membership Chair – Please help form new chapters and please feel free to reach out to Shirley for any questions or support.

Marlene Michel – Reminder of upcoming Zoom Online Convention from the Edmonton, Canada AHSGR Chapter:

- September 11 – 13, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$30.75 for the full weekend. Some key speakers are Dr. Brent Mai, Dr. Roger Minert, and a local preservationist. Website for registration and information: <http://www.german-russians.info/>.
- Conference times: Friday, September 11 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. MST
Saturday, September 12 9:00 a.m. – 9:05 p.m. MST
Sunday, September 13 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. MST

Peter Kaland, IFAHSGR Treasurer – The 990 for IFAHSGR was filed and copies of the Treasurer’s Report are at Headquarters, and Aaron can send out if requested.

Meeting Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Peter Kaland, Seconded by Dodie Rotherham. Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m. CST

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Glanz

Secretary, AHSGR International Board of Directors

**2021 Board of Directors Nominations
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
(International)**

Below is the Board of Directors nomination and election information. The data is separated by district. Listed are the names of current board members, their current terms, and the dates of terms they are serving. Board members are allowed to serve consecutive three-year terms. See the AHSGR bylaws for more nomination and election information (Article XII: Elections). Where terms begin in 2021 (*), the candidates listed are running unopposed and therefore will begin their new terms at the 2021 AHSGR member meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska. Where terms are followed by (#) the individual is running unopposed to fill the remaining years of the position and will begin serving in that new role at the 2021 AHSGR member meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska. Where vacancies are noted (+), there are no nominees. As stated in the bylaws, AHSGR will NOT mail ballots for Board of Directors seats that are uncontested.

Board Nominees 2021 and vacancies

District 1: California 4 seats

Lee Macklin *	First Term	2021 - 2024*
Sue Nakaji	Second Term	2020 - 2023
Jerry Siebert	Eight Term	2020 - 2023
Dodie Rotherham*	Forth Term	2019 - 2022*#

District 2: Washington & Alaska 2 seats

Mike Heil	First Term	2020 - 2023
VACANT		2021 - 2024+

District 3: Nebraska 2 seats

Nancy Borrell	Fifth Term	2020 - 2023
VACANT		2019 - 2022+

District 4: Colorado 4 seats

Sue Casseday *	Second Term	2021 - 2024 *
Shirley Wilcoxon	Second Term	2019 - 2022
Cheryl Glanz	Second Term	2019 - 2022
Delores Tippett	Second Term	2019 - 2022

District 5: Oregon 1 seat

VACANT		2020 - 2023+
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District 6: Kansas 2 seats

Robert Ahlbrandt*	First Term	2021 - 2024*
Kevin Rupp*	Fifth Term	2021 - 2024*

District 7: AZ,NV,NM,OK,TX,UT 3 seats

Harold Penner	Second Term	2020 - 2023
Bill Dellos*	Third Term	2021 - 2024*
Anna Bartowski*		2019 - 2022*#

District 8: Illinois & Wisconsin 1 seat

Bill Doos*	Fourth Term	2021 - 2024*
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District 9: ID, MT, WY,ND,SD 1 seat

Michael Brown	Second Term	2019 - 2022
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District 10: IN, MI, and Ohio 1 seat

VACANT		2020 - 2023+
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District 11: IA, MN, MO 2 seats

VACANT		2019 - 2022+
Sheri Ertl	First Term	2020 - 2023

District 12: AL,AR, CT,DE,FL,GA, KY,LA,MA,MD,MS,NH, NJ, RI, NY, NC, PA,SC, TN, VA,WV, VT, and DC 2 seats

VACANT		2021 - 2024+
Karen Soeken*	Fourth Term	2020 - 2023*#

District 13: Canada & Others 2 seats

Marlene Michel	First Term	2019 - 2022
Fabian Zubia Schultheis*	First Term	2021 - 2024*

District 14: At Large 3 seats

Gary Fuchs*	Second Term	2021 - 2024*
VACANT		2019 - 2022+
VACANT		2019 - 2022+

VACANT (+) Agreed to serve (*) Fill remaining term unopposed (#)

Ancestral & Genealogical Records Committee 2020 Annual Report Dodie Rotherham & Kevin Rupp, Chairs

The AHSGR Ancestral Records and Genealogy met numerous times throughout the board year to carry out the work of the organization.

The committee members are:

Dodie Rotherham (Co-Chair), Kevin Rupp (Co-chair), Robert Ahlbrandt, Michael Brown, Bill Dellos, Bill Doos, Sheri Ertl, Gary Fuchs, Marlene Michel, Harold Penner, David Ralston, Gerald Sieb, Pam Wurst, non-board member Yulia Tysmbal.

Our goal for 2020 was to review past projects and determine what remained to be completed. The following is a very small list of the committees accomplishments during 2020-2021 board year:

1. Gedenkbuch Kasachstan or Kazakhstan Memorial Book. Alex Herzog has completed the translation. Currently we are adding the many tables of names and Photos, formatting and raising money for printing..
2. Die Welt Post, Letters from Hell 1920-1922 have been translated and formatted. The publication will be available late this summer. Each book will be devoted to one year of letters. We are grateful to Eric Schmaltz for the preparation of the preface. .
3. Deportation Lists of Stalingrad Area by Nina Vaschkau is 2021-21 projects `
4. Shcherbakovka Project – We are seeking resources, including funding, to translate all the materials that we have purchased for this village.
5. Our Small publishing group, a subcommittee of the Archives/Genealogy committee, has completed and published more than 50 records during the past 3 board cycles. A list of the completed records can be found in the online store at AHSGR.org.
6. **Museum** - Our museum continues to be an integral and important asset to the society and as such we will continue the preservation and documentation of the artifacts and maintain the historical campus. This board year we will work with the web design projects to improve the web presence of the museum. Our committee goal is to attract additional funding and assistance for the numerous projects. All donations to the committee be held in a restricted account for the designated purpotse.
7. **Library** - New shelving and rearraign the library is underway. Library expansion into the board room will continue in an effort to make room for the ever-increasing resources for research and reference. Research projects have been numerous this year with requests from Europe and South America.

The complete list of all records purchased and published, along with new library resources are published at ahsgr.org

Dodie Rotherham & Kevin Rupp, Co-chairs, Ancestral Records and Genealogy Committee
July 2021

Editorial and Publications Committee 2021 Annual Report

The Editorial and Publications Committee is responsible to the Board of Directors for issues relating to publications. Publications have included the AHSGR Journal, AHSGR Newsletter, Jugend Zeitung, and every three years *Clues*. In addition the publication of books and monographs occur as manuscripts are submitted, edited, and formatted. The committee is assisted by a Publications Coordinator. During this past year a new Coordinator, Jonathan Rowe, was appointed to replace Alison Hunter Frederick who resigned. The Journal is managed through an Editor, Dr. Michael Brown and assisted by an Editorial Board. This Board during the past year was expanded to include members with international backgrounds and experiences. The committee is also responsible for the purchase of books and materials made available to members through the AHSGR store. During this past year, copies of the *Kuhlberg List* were acquired through an arrangement with its publisher to replenish deleted stocks. Currently negotiations are being undertaken with the publisher of *Einwanderung in das Wolgagbiet* to replenish deleted stocks of this publication as well.

Technology Committee Annual Report, Oct 2020 - July 2021

Committee Members: Alexis Kuzmick; Cheryl Glanz; Harold Penner; Leonard Welch; Pam Wurst; Robert Ahlbrandt; Robyn Morales, Dennis Zitterkopf

Considerable effort and time has been applied during the year with multiple reviews and modifications of Policies and Procedures directly related to the Technology Committee. These changes have been implemented in the overall P&P Manual.

The Covid pandemic forced all Board meeting and committee work to be performed via Zoom meetings and email. While not ideal, all Board members and committee meetings had to find a way to continue to perform their tasks during the year. Everyone learned that simple and clear communication was the only way to accomplish what we needed to do – while not desired, we all learned the importance of how to clearly communicate with one another which will be an asset for all future committee work.

Members have been very involved with the definition of the new planned website, membership program, online store, online library, research assistance and digital marketing project beginning with selection of a design and developer company. Effort is now focused on detailing the design activity prior to an anticipated release of the project late 2021.

The contract was renewed with Bizco, our computer support technology company.

Additional resources were procured to reduce the Convention Bookstore checkout line delays customers have previously experienced.

A new policy titled Acceptable Information Technology (IT) Resource Usage was prepared and released. This affects and gives guidance to all staff and Board members for the acceptable use of AHSGR computer and software resources.

An additional security software program was added to the server that improves the ability of the server to detect and prevent hostile attacks to our server and computer network.

We continued the regular staff equipment and replacement program with the procurement of two desktop computers and improved monitors.

The existing online new membership application and membership renewal processes were improved by adding electronic payment capabilities instead of only using paper applications and checks. This simplifies, eliminates errors, reduces the effort by staff and makes it easier for members to join and renew their membership dues.

A member volunteered to work part time as our webmaster to help correct and update several errors and out of date material in the website. The minimal staff did not have time to complete their assigned tasks as well as well as provide support for website maintenance. This remains an ongoing issue and corrective action is being discussed for additional staff for this critical matter. We owe member Katheryn Smith a big Thank You for the time she was able to share with us while she could.

Submitted by Dennis Zitterkopf

Technology Committee chair

Marketing And Public Affairs Committee – 2021 Annual Report

Committee members: Shirley Wilcoxon-chairperson, Bill Dellos, Robyn Morales, Harold Penner, Alexis Kuzmick, David Ralston, Christina Zahn

This is a new committee. Like anything new, there is a period of brainstorming, exploring options, learning new methods, testing, experimenting, delays, failures, and successes, and positive attitudes.

We established short term goals to center around social media and promotion to other similar groups and pages; identify materials and speakers for outreach and networking with other like-minded historical societies, genealogical groups, and libraries; create website materials and establish special landing pages to track our promotions; improve our branding, track our analytics, analyze the effectiveness, and adjust accordingly.

Other goals have been to create public value and awareness; increase our sphere of influence outside of ahsgr; educate the public about the history, culture, heritage, and genealogy of ahsgr; establish new and dynamic means to improve awareness of AHSGR, sell the benefits of being a member; expand social media on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and other sources; do paid and free social media advertising; interact with other social media groups and pages; create specialty social media groups; participate in conferences such as RootsTech, etc. Fyi: RootsTech was put on hold until we have our new website published. We plan to participate in the 2022 rootstech conference.

We have had a very aggressive social media campaign designed to create brand awareness, promote ahsgr to multiple groups and pages, and to attract new members. Various themed posts have been made daily. Analytics are checked regularly for effectiveness. Our most successful post resulted in over 54,000 views and engagements. The emphasis now has been to promote the July 13-15, 2021, virtual conference.

Personal individual messages were sent to over 2,000 people who requested to join our Facebook groups. The messages invited them to become members of AHSGR and included a link to our website. These people are being tracked to see whether they join AHSGR or not. There have been several people join after receiving the invitation. Many said that they did not know that AHSGR existed.

We are looking forward to the new website which will give us a tremendous opportunity to utilize social media funnels and to market and promote AHSGR even better.

The marketing and public affairs committee is here to assist all the other ahsgr committees, chapters, headquarters, and members. Please contact the committee when you have new publications, membership campaigns, activities, genealogical resources, village information, bookstore items, outreach activities, fundraising, or anything else you would like to have publicized.

Since we are a team, we also need your help. After posting to our Facebook page, we share some of the posts to 5-15 other groups and pages. At one point, we were able to share without limits. Facebook is constantly changing their rules and regulations. We are limited now. Please be an ambassador of ahsgr by sharing the posts with your chapter and other special interest groups. It only takes three to five seconds to click on the share tab. You do not even need to write anything we especially need someone to post to Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, and other social media platforms. It will be easy to do since we will create the content for you.

The marketing and public affairs committee welcomes feedback, suggestions, and constructive criticism. Tell us what you like and do not like. We are thick skinned Germans so we will not be offended. Danke!

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Wilcoxon

Convention Management Committee Year End Report 2021

Committee Members: Susan Nakaji, Chairperson, Nancy Borrell, Bill Dellos, Sheri Ertl, Harvey Fries, Robyn Morales, Kevin Rupp, Jerry Siebert, Karen Soeken, Shirley Wilcoxon. Alexis Kuzmiak, Leonard Welch, Rob Miller.
Ex officio members: Mike Heil, Dodie Rotherham, Sue Casseday, Cheryl Glanz, Dennis Zitterkopf, Nathaniel Harris, Jonathan Rowe, Sara Roberts, Allison Hunter-Frederick.

SMART Goals:

1. AHSGR will host a Virtual Convention on July 13-15.
2. The Conference will earn a profit of \$15,000.
3. The Virtual Conference will solicit Company Sponsorships and individual donations.
4. The Virtual Conference will present a varied program inclusive of multiple areas of settlements of the Germans from Russia.
5. The Virtual Conference will include Genealogical, Historical, Folklore and Religions of the Germans from Russia.
6. The Convention Management committee will develop a Five Year plan for future Conventions.

Theme for the 51st Annual Convention and 1st Virtual Conference: Connections: Keeping our German Russian Heritage Alive.

The Committee met bi-weekly via Zoom meetings to plan the Virtual Conference. Karen Soeken contacted the potential speakers. Harvey Fries contacted potential Corporate sponsors and Genealogical companies for donations. Robyn Morales worked with Jonathan Rowe to select an online ticket sales provider and set up our Registration process. Nathaniel Harris set up the Zoom connections for the Conference. Sue Nakaji developed the program schedule.

International Speakers this year include: Dr. Mila Koretnikov, Dr. Reinhold Nachtigal and Dr. Jorge Fabian Zubia-Schultheis.

SMART Goals 3, 4, 5 were completed. Goals 1 & 2 are still ongoing. Goal 6 was not completed.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the 2020 Convention in Pasco, Washington was cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Nakaji,
Convention Management Chairperson

Facilities Committee Annual Report

The Facilities Committee has been active this year. Last fall was the normal shut down of the sprinkler system being told to wait until next year and they would look at the boggy spot by the chapel to see if there was a broken pipe. We had the light snow fall for November and December. Our emergency exit door on the west was fixed so that it would not stick when and if it needed to be used. All exit lights were changed over to LED bulbs so that we didn't have to replace them so often. We discussed the replacement of the outside night lighting, checking the difference of repairing or replacing. January came with a mighty rush two snow storms and the need for a new air exchanger/air conditioner for the first floor west end of the building. The existing unit was a 1971 ceiling model it was replaced with a floor model that sits in west book storage closet. Also at this time one of the ED office front windows was broken by the snow crew and needed to be replaced, this was paid for by the snow crew. The bathroom fixtures (toilets) all the flappers were replaced they were operating as they should. We had the first new library shelving installed, thank you Caleb and Kurt. March came in with a roar. We had winds here that topped 70 miles an hour. We lost the part of the roof to our storage shed outside. We moved most of the items that were still in there to the chapel furnace room mainly folding chairs and tools and things were moved the the main office storage area. We still have about two to three bundles of shingles that need to be moved so that this can be taken down. We need to find storage for these. The windstorm also brought rain. I had assumed that the we had a company coming at a standing time every year to clean gutters but I was wrong this will be resolved. We also had a large amount of rain with this storm and the northeast corner

brought water to the basement where we had it before due to clogged gutters, that problem is resolved. With the windstorm also, came the now replacing the outside lights. We had to go back and check prices and order. They were ordered in May and the first of June we received notification that they are being shipped. Lou our handing man will be installing. As of June 8th they had not been received. The week before Memorial Day the summer kitchen door was taken down and Lou took it to his shop, repaired and rescreened it. Brought to my house and I painted it. Picked it up and it will be reinstalled when we work on the threshold. I will be painting that too. This should be done around June 14th week. We have more new shelving in the library installed. I have played phone tag with our lawn crew and finally last week, Josh and I connected. We will have the property hard edged every month instead of using the weed wacker to the edges. Also, property is to be cleaned and the weeds in the area behind the cow barn they will use a weed wacker to keep weeds at bay. They are to clean the large beds along the driveway, I got tired of waiting, so I spent eight hours and cleaned along the south side of the driveway in two mornings I got as far as the yew bushes that need attention. Yardworx sent out a young man to take care of the weeds in the cowbarn area and the small area that I had now gotten to. The cow barn area is done but the job on the small driveway area was not done to my standards and had him come back to finish it the right way. It still has weed in it. I will take care of those. Upon leaving the second time the young man, who was doing the weeding backed into the railing at the back door and broke it off. It was caught on camera. That should be fixed the 11th and paid for by Yardwokx. We are waiting for the spraying of the weeds in the cracks of the driveways and sidewalks. It is too hot now to take care of the clover in the yard we will have to be content with mowing the heads off until fall when they can spray again. The temp has to be under 60. After calling 19 businesses I finally found another person to come out this coming week for an estimate and said that he could do the cleaning of the statue. He will use a product called Limestone Restoration. His name is Travis and he owns Capitol Restoration. He has GR background thru his grandmother. He has been to our museum. He can have it done by the 12th.

Pam Wurst, Chairman

Folklore Committee Annual Report

The Folklore Committee met twice this past year on Zoom. Many members were new to the committee. Bill Dellos was going to provide the members with a list of projects the Folklore Committee is working on.

The Storytelling Contest was not well promoted by the committee and only received 3 entries. Discussion was held on how to engage more members in the contest in the future and to also have a Story-writing lesson as a future Treffen Tuesday program.

Bill Dellos did contact members in the Utah area to work on a folklore video for presentation during the Virtual Conference.

Membership Committee Annual Report

As of 06 June 2021

Members: Sue Cassidy, Wilhelm Doos, Sheri Ertl, Maury Johnson (non-board member), David Ralston, Gerald Sieb, Karen Soeken (Chair)

As of 06 June 2021, our Total Membership numbered 2644: Life 1151, Annual (Standard and Sustaining) 1450, Youth and Student 21, and Organizational 22. This is an increase of 82 memberships over the previous year. During the year we added 404 new members, consistent with the 406 new members the previous year. One goal of the committee was to increase the number of annual members from 1405 to 1450 by June 2021; the goal was accomplished.

Of particular interest is the retention rate, that is, the percentage of annual members who renew their membership. Our goal was to increase the retention rate from 67% during 2019-2020 to 75% by 20 June 2021; the rate increased to 74% over the period July 2020 through April 2021. Unfortunately, 50% of those who did not renew

their memberships were first time members although it was a decrease from 55% the previous year.

- In an effort to better understand member satisfaction of new members, in January 2021 we distributed a survey to those who joined AHSGR July through November 2020. Members indicated they joined primarily to learn more about their German-Russian background and connect with others based on ancestral village and/or surname. Given the importance of connections, we started connecting with new members by sending handwritten notes in addition to the new member packet and we encouraged chapter leaders and Village Coordinators who receive monthly new member reports to reach out to new members. The majority of comments about what new members thought would improve membership in AHSGR concerned the website, availability of information online, and virtual learning opportunities. In addition to the notes, we also sent small gifts to new members after 2-3 months. In April and May we randomly selected two new members to receive a free conference registration and two new members in June to receive a bookstore item.

Other activities during the year included the following:

- Revised/updated the Member Handbook and new member welcome letter and packet
- Revised the membership forms (not all desired changes could be made at this time)
- Updated the Chapter Procedural Manual
- Welcomed the Greater Kansas City Area chapter
- Started developing a continuing education process to encourage and recognize member participation in activities and educational opportunities related to Germans from Russia
- Worked with the Website Task Force on items related to membership

Nominating Committee Annual Report

The nominating committee met via zoom Board of Director's meetings to determine open board positions and confirm candidates for those positions.

Currently 5 positions remain open and are identified in the 2021 Board of Directors Nomination's list in this booklet.

All nominations, from the floor during the annual meeting, must have nominees agreement to serve. Appointments for 1 year for remaining open positions will be filled by board appointments. Members interested in filling open positions by appointment must submit a resume to the nominating committee.

Strategic Planning Committee Annual Report

2020-2021

Members: Robert Ahlbrandt, Wilhelm Doos, Gary Fuchs, Cheryl Glanz, Dodie Rotherham, Karen Soeken (Chair), Shirley Wilcoxon

The purpose of the Strategic Planning Committee during the year was to promote and monitor implementation of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. We encouraged the board committees to develop SMART (Strategic, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-Bound) goals with action plans that related to and have the potential to impact the three focus areas of our plan: Financial, Outreach, and Technological Innovation. The *Financial* area involves consistent financial stability to support the Society programs and priorities in addition to our organizational obligations. *Outreach* is centered on opportunities to expand the Society's sphere of influence, both with our members and outside our membership. *Technological Innovation* emphasizes the use of technology in supporting programs, the Society, and management of the organization. While the goals of various committees addressed all three areas, the primary focus this year was Technological Innovation. A Website Task Force was appointed and led by Lee Macklin and included all programmatic areas with the goal to upgrade the AHSGR website and data management system by the end of 2021.

Throughout the year, we tracked the progress that committees reported on their short-term goals and updated the implementation plan as other goals were developed. Committees were encouraged to also develop goals that look beyond the 2020-2021 year. Consequently, our implementation plan takes us into the next two years. The Strategic Planning Committee will continue to promote, monitor, and track implementation of the plan.

Annual Report: Fund Raising Committee

There were two fund raising activities from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The first took place during the Christmas holiday season in 2020; total amount received amounted to \$31,384.00. A second took place during June 2021; Total amount received through July 7th amounted to \$21,520 with money still being received.

The Board of Directors recommends the following changes to the AHSGR Bylaws to be voted upon at the annual meeting.

BYLAW	CURRENT	PROPOSED CHANGE	RATIONALE
<p>Add new Article XIX, Electronic Meetings</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Any AHSGR meeting, including any meeting of the Members, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, or any other committee, may be held by remote communication as provided herein and shall be subject to the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The technology used for the electronic meeting shall allow attendees full access to and full participation in all meeting transactions, either continuously or intermittently, throughout the specified time of the meeting. b. AHSGR shall implement reasonable measures to authenticate the attendance and vote of each attendee. c. Participation in a remote meeting shall constitute presence for all purposes, including quorum and voting. d. Any action that could be taken at an in-person meeting may also be taken at a remote meeting held pursuant to this provision. e. Procedural rules related to the conduct of electronic meetings shall be established and promulgated by the Executive Committee. <p>It shall be the responsibility of the members to possess hardware and software that will allow them to participate in electronic meetings through technology generally available to the public and reasonably selected by the Executive Committee for use by AHSGR for the conduct of its electronic meetings.</p>	<p>Current By-laws make no provision for electronic meetings.</p>

BYLAW	CURRENT	PROPOSED CHANGE	RATIONALE
<p>Article V, Annual Membership Meeting.</p> <p>Add new Sec. D.</p>	None	<p>The Executive Committee may, in its sole discretion, determine that any meeting of the members, including the annual meeting of the members, shall not be held at any place, but may instead be held solely by means of remote communication. Participation in a meeting held by remote communication shall constitute presence in person at the meeting for all purposes, including quorum and voting., but only upon remaining connected to the meeting via electronic means for the entirety of the meeting. Members shall receive at least seven (7) days advance notice of the change to a remote meeting and shall be provided instructions for participation and voting for such remote meeting. The Executive Committee, in its sole discretion, shall determine the applicable program and procedures to conduct the meeting by means of remote communication.</p>	Current By-laws make no provision for electronic meetings.
<p>Article VI, Board of Directors.</p> <p>Add new Sec. P.</p>	None	<p>The Executive Committee may, in its sole discretion, determine that any number of attendees, up to and including all attendees, may participate in any meeting of the Board of Directors by means of remote communication. Participation in a meeting held by remote communication shall constitute presence in person at the meeting for all purposes, including quorum and voting, but only if remaining connected to the meeting via electronic means for the entirety of the meeting. Members of the Board of Directors shall receive at least 24 hours advance notice of the change to a remote meeting and shall be provided with instructions for participation and voting for such remote meeting. The Executive Committee, in its sole discretion, shall determine the applicable program and procedures to conduct the meeting by means of remote communication.</p>	Current By-laws make no provision for electronic meetings.
<p>Article VIII, Executive Committee, Sec. B.</p> <p>Replace Sec. B in its entirety.</p>	<p>Section B. The Executive Committee shall meet on call of the President, or on request of three (3) voting members of the Executive Committee. A majority of Executive Committee voting members shall constitute a quorum.</p>	<p>The Executive Committee shall meet on call of the President or on the request of three (3) members of the Executive Committee other than the President. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. The person or persons calling the meeting may, in their sole discretion, determine that any number of attendees, up to and including all attendees, may participate in any meeting of the Executive Committee by means of remote communication. Participation in a meeting held by remote communication shall constitute presence in person at the meeting for all purposes, including quorum and voting, but only if remaining connected to the meeting via electronic means for the entirety of the meeting. The President, in his or her sole discretion, shall determine the applicable program and procedures to conduct the meeting by means of remote communication.</p>	Current By-laws make no provision for electronic meetings.
<p>Article V, Sec. C, to be replaced in its entirety.</p>	<p>Section C. Those members of AHSGR attending the annual membership meeting shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.</p>	<p>One hundred (100) Members in good standing in attendance at the Annual Membership Meeting shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of any business as may come before the meeting. The number of Members in attendance at a Special Meeting of the Members shall be no less than one hundred (100) of the Members of AHSGR.</p>	Revises Bylaws to match Articles of Incorporation.

Statement of Activity

January - December 2020

	Total
REVENUE	
40000 Operating Income	
41000 Annual Membership Income	
41010 Annual Membership Dues	84,757.88
41015 Annual Physical Publication	4,178.72
Total 41000 Annual Membership Income	88,936.60
41500 Foundation Admin Support	45,000.00
41600 Trans./Research Income	
41610 Research-Genealogy	4,430.65
Total 41600 Trans./Research Income	4,430.65
41850 Inter Library Loan Coll	15.00
44000 Bookstore Income	
44100 Bookstore Sales	3,728.89
44115 Bookstore Other	47.00
44120 DVD/CD Sales	325.00
44135 eBook Sales	503.18
44140 Map Sales	661.00
44145 Surname Chart Sales	2,380.00
44150 Census Sales	4,001.89
44151 Census Sales - Kevin Rupp	575.00
Total 44150 Census Sales	4,576.89
44160 Monograph Sales	5,917.35
44190 Postage/Handling Income	4,652.31
Total 44100 Bookstore Sales	22,791.62
Total 44000 Bookstore Income	22,791.62
45000 Dividend/Interest Investments	
45120 Interest Income West Gate	94.98
45300 Int/Div Inc Schwab 2096-0405	21,459.44
45350 Int/Div Inc Schwab 4977-4206	972.14
45400 Int/Div Inc Schwab 5060-8984	47,602.32
45500 Int/Div Inc Schwab 7062-2139	10,203.57
45600 Int/Div US Bank 080009128800	1,478.45
45610 Int/Div US Bank 080009128900	502.55
Total 45000 Dividend/Interest Investments	82,313.45
45800 Unreal Gain/Loss Investments	
45820 Unrealized Gain/Loss 2096-0405	182,958.80
45830 Unrealized Gain/Loss 4977-4206	11,392.77
45840 Unrealized Gain/Loss 5060-8984	23,808.14
45850 Unrealized Gain/Loss 7062-2139	9,762.10
45860 Unrealized Gain/Loss 9128800	4,478.79
45870 Unrealized Gain/Loss 9128900	1,590.62
Total 45800 Unreal Gain/Loss Investments	233,991.22

	Total
47000 Contributions - Unrestricted	
47100 General Operating	65,108.44
Total 47000 Contributions - Unrestricted	65,108.44
Total 40000 Operating Income	542,586.98
48000 Restricted Income	
48001 Life Membership Income	14,700.00
48100 Donor Designated Society	
48110 Historical Research	
48113 Historical Research Income	420.00
48118 Translation Income	400.00
Total 48110 Historical Research	820.00
48120 Archives	
48125a Neu Doenhof	1,200.00
Total 48120 Archives	1,200.00
48160 Editorial & Publications	
48161 Publication Income	2,192.50
Total 48160 Editorial & Publications	2,192.50
48180 Board Designated	
48180b Memorial Wish List/BR	20,220.00
48180e Building Expansion (Temp)	4,200.00
48180f Flegel Library	450.00
48180g Facilities/BR	909.87
48180h CMBC/BR	1,675.00
48290 Restricted Grants	7,500.00
Total 48180 Board Designated	34,954.87
Total 48100 Donor Designated Society	39,167.37
48200 Grant Income	
48293 intern	5,000.00
Total 48200 Grant Income	5,000.00
Total 48000 Restricted Income	58,867.37
49900 Uncategorized Income	433.49
Sales of Product Income	14,925.14
Sales of Product Revenue	30.00
Services	5,343.44
Total Revenue	622,186.42
COST OF GOODS SOLD	
50000 BookStore COGS	
50100 COGS - Books	-660.00
Total 50000 BookStore COGS	-660.00
Cost of Goods Sold	8,718.99
Inventory Shrinkage	3,382.87
Total Cost of Goods Sold	11,441.86
GROSS PROFIT	610,744.56
EXPENDITURES	

	Total
60000 Program Expenses	
60130 Membership	
60131 Direct Mailing/Campaigns	1,468.70
60132a Mailings	3,636.21
60132c Advertisements	190.00
Total 60130 Membership	5,294.91
60150 Printing & Publications	
60151 Journal, Newsletter & Clues	12,652.23
60152 Printing Other	1,986.99
Total 60150 Printing & Publications	14,639.22
60160 Genealogical	
60161 Library - New Books	139.35
60162 Library - OCLC	1,904.42
Total 60160 Genealogical	2,043.77
60190 Technology	
60191 Computer Hardware	8,087.49
60192 Computer Software	11,049.72
60193 Technical Support	10,269.49
60195 E-Mail Services	1,174.22
Total 60190 Technology	30,580.92
Total 60000 Program Expenses	52,558.82
60900 Convention Expenses	
60902 Convention - Advertising	215.00
60966 Convention - Planning Meetings	2,562.71
60978 Convention - Supplies	294.10
Total 60900 Convention Expenses	3,071.81
62000 Administrative Expenses	
62001 Advertising	521.49
62010 Bank Charges	808.65
62012 Board/Committee	20.25
62016 Immigrant Plaques	33.52
62050 Bookstore Expenses	
62055 Display Items	1,406.26
Total 62050 Bookstore Expenses	1,406.26
62120 Credit Card Fees	4,878.84
62122 Depreciation	
62122a Depreciation-Building	13,481.98
62122b Depreciation-Museum	903.59
62122c Depreciation-Equipment	1,776.03
Total 62122 Depreciation	16,161.60
62123 Dues & Subscriptions	2,470.20
62125 Facility	
62125a Cleaning	5,685.96
62125b Pest Control	364.66

	Total
62125c Repairs & Maintenance	13,256.24
62125d Security	1,177.28
62125e Utilities	8,897.27
62125f Telephone & Internet Service	2,507.65
Total 62125 Facility	31,889.06
62127 Fees - State & Local Government	70.00
62128 Foreign Exchange Fees	152.49
62130 Insurance	14,043.62
62135 Internet Fees	525.30
62140 Equipment - Lease/Rental	7,001.69
62141 Equipment - Repair/Maintenance	323.51
62145 Miscellaneous Exp	833.83
62150 Postage and Shipping	7,896.45
62155 Professional Fees	14,723.60
62155a Accounting	35,283.24
62155b Auditing/CPA	8,000.00
62155c Legal	59.97
62155e Consulting	32.00
Total 62155 Professional Fees	58,098.81
62160 Supplies	3,856.05
62165 Taxes	
62165a Other Taxes	100.00
Total 62165 Taxes	100.00
62180 Volunteer Expenses	49.90
62300 Payroll Expenses	
62310 Administrative Labor Costs	
62311 Salaried Wages	94,041.68
62312 Hourly Wages	46,580.32
62314 Bonus	2,500.00
62317 COVID Pay	490.14
Total 62310 Administrative Labor Costs	143,612.14
62315 Health Insurance	1,900.00
62316 Phone	220.00
62318 Interim Wages	25.90
62320 Payroll Taxes, etc.	
62321 Payroll Taxes Soc Sec	11,532.10
Total 62320 Payroll Taxes, etc.	11,532.10
62400 Employee Benefits	
62410 Paid Time Off - PT	939.33
62411 Vacation - FT	338.00
62412 Holiday - PT & FT	1,022.51
62414 Sick Pay - FT	21.00
62420 Retirement Plan - All	1,937.56
Total 62400 Employee Benefits	4,258.40

	Total
Total 62300 Payroll Expenses	161,548.54
Total 62000 Administrative Expenses	312,690.06
64000 Restricted Expenses	
64100 Historical Research	
64104 Translations Expense	2,503.26
64104a Translate Koshkin book	4,500.00
Total 64104 Translations Expense	7,003.26
64106 Collections/Museum Exp	6,645.47
Total 64100 Historical Research	13,648.73
64200 Archives	
64201a Kukkus Kanton	1,500.00
Total 64200 Archives	1,500.00
64800 Board Restricted	
64800h CMBC/BR	300.00
Total 64800 Board Restricted	300.00
64886 Headquarters/Campus Maintenance	186.98
64900 Grant Expenses	
64910 Lauren Fdn Grant	75.00
Total 64900 Grant Expenses	75.00
Total 64000 Restricted Expenses	15,710.71
Uncategorized Expense	3,282.64
Total Expenditures	387,314.04
NET OPERATING REVENUE	223,430.52
OTHER REVENUE	
90000 Transfer of funds - In	
90001 Trsf of funds - In/Life Mbrshp	65,000.00
Total 90000 Transfer of funds - In	65,000.00
Other Income PPP Loan Forgiveness	32,000.00
Total Other Revenue	97,000.00
OTHER EXPENDITURES	
80000 Transfer of funds - Out	
80001 Trsf of funds - Out/Life Mbrshp	65,000.00
Total 80000 Transfer of funds - Out	65,000.00
Total Other Expenditures	65,000.00
NET OTHER REVENUE	32,000.00
NET REVENUE	\$255,430.52



July 9, 2021

To the Board of Directors
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
631 D Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

RE: AU-C 260

We have audited the financial statements of American Historical Society of Germans from Russia for the year ended December 31, 2020, and we will issue our report thereon dated July 9, 2021. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated January 21, 2021. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by American Historical Society of Germans from Russia are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2020. We noted no transactions entered into by the Society during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

Management's estimate of the depreciation expense is based on the estimated useful lives of the assets.

Management's estimate of the allowance for doubtful accounts is based on the collections of the notes receivable.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
July 9, 2021
Page two

RE: AU-C 260

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. The attached schedules summarize corrected and uncorrected misstatements of the financial statements. Management has determined that their effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated July 9, 2021.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

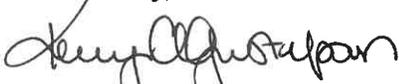
In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Society's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Society's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of American Historical Society of Germans from Russia and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Yours truly,



KERRY W. GUSTAFSSON
For the Firm

e-mail: gustafsson@danacole.com
direct line: 402.479.9321

KAG:tec



July 9, 2021

To the Board of Directors
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
631 D Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

RE: AU-C 265

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of American Historical Society of Germans from Russia as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered American Historical Society of Germans from Russia's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Society's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the following deficiency in American Historical Society of Germans from Russia's internal control to be a significant deficiency:

Most of the nonprofit organization we serve ask for our assistance as it relates to the preparation of the financial statements and notes to the financial statements. Auditing standards emphasize that our Firm cannot be part of the system of internal control over financial reporting. As a result of this standard, we are required to indicate to those charged with governance that we provided

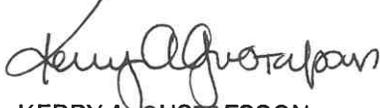
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
July 9, 2021
Page two

RE: AU-C 265

guidance to management in its preparation of the financial statements and notes to the financial statements. We have provided such guidance to the Society due to the high degree of technical expertise that is required to keep up with all of the accounting standards, including those that are issued on an annual basis. Had management not asked for our assistance in preparing the financial statements and notes to the financial statements, it is possible that all of the required disclosures may not have been included.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Directors, and others within the Society, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Yours truly,



KERRY A. GUSTAFSSON
For the Firm

e-mail: gustafsson@danacole.com
direct line: 402.479.9321

KAG:tec

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF
AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2020

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

To The Board of Trustees of
International Foundation of American
Historical Society of Germans from Russia
Lincoln, Nebraska

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements of International Foundation of American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, (a nonprofit organization) which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2020, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We did not audit or review the financial statements nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on these financial statements.

Summarized Comparative Information

We previously compiled International Foundation of America Historical Society of Germans from Russia's 2019 financial statements and our compilation report dated June 18, 2020, stated that we did not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on those financial statements. The summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019 is derived from those compiled financial statements.

Riggs & Associates CPA's, P.C.

Lincoln, Nebraska
May 3, 2021

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2020
WITH SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2019

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
			2020	2019
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash	\$ 1,218	\$ -	\$ 1,218	\$ 1,983
Receivables	5,155	-	5,155	2,119
Prepaid insurance	762	-	762	762
Due from other net assets	799,255	-	799,255	667,056
Total current assets	806,390	-	806,390	671,920
Investments (Fair Value)				
Held for American Historical Society of Germans from Russia	-	86,006	86,006	78,579
For operating and acquisition purposes	-	4,191	4,191	3,832
For endowment purposes	-	2,254,480	2,254,480	2,148,292
For living legacy purposes	-	192,209	192,209	176,424
For annuity purposes	-	159,446	159,446	152,354
Total investments	-	2,696,332	2,696,332	2,559,481
Total assets	\$ 806,390	\$ 2,696,332	\$3,502,722	\$3,231,401
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 975
Current portion of annuities payable	5,967	-	5,967	6,958
Due to other net assets	-	799,255	799,255	667,056
Total current liabilities	5,967	799,255	805,222	674,989
Long Term Liabilities				
Annuity payable (net of current portion shown above)	33,408	-	33,408	45,046
Funds held for American Historical Society of Germans from Russia	-	86,006	86,006	78,579
Total long term liabilities	33,408	86,006	119,414	123,625
Total liabilities	39,375	885,261	924,636	798,614
Net Assets				
Without donor restrictions	767,015	-	767,015	618,941
With donor restrictions	-	1,811,071	1,811,071	1,813,846
Total net assets	767,015	1,811,071	2,578,086	2,432,787
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 806,390	\$ 2,696,332	\$3,502,722	\$3,231,401

See accompanying notes and accountant's compilation report.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020
WITH SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2019

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	<u>Totals</u>	
			2020	2019
REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Contributions	\$ -	\$ 9,495	\$ 9,495	\$ 12,537
Net investment income (loss)		178,931	178,931	383,183
Total revenue and other support	-	188,426	188,426	395,720
Net assets released from restrictions	191,201	(191,201)	-	-
Subtotal	191,201	(2,775)	188,426	395,720
EXPENSES				
Program services:				
Support of AHSGR	45,000	-	45,000	45,000
Management and general	4,639	-	4,639	5,674
Fundraising	(6,512)	-	(6,512)	1,425
Total expenses	43,127	-	43,127	52,099
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	148,074	(2,775)	145,299	343,621
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	618,941	1,813,846	2,432,787	2,089,166
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 767,015	\$ 1,811,071	\$ 2,578,086	\$ 2,432,787

See accompanying notes and accountant's compilation report.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020
WITH SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2019

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Supporting Services</u>		<u>2020 Totals</u>	<u>2019 Totals</u>
	<u>Support of AHSGR</u>	<u>Management & General</u>	<u>Fund- raising</u>		
Contributions	45,000	-	-	45,000	45,000
Professional fees	-	3,100	-	3,100	3,200
Bookkeeping services	-	-	-	-	975
Insurance	-	1,529	150	1,679	1,658
Office expenses	-	10	-	10	849
Printing and reproduction	-	-	-	-	597
Meeting expenses	-	-	-	-	1,401
Annuity expense (recovery)	-	-	(6,662)	(6,662)	(1,581)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 45,000</u>	<u>\$ 4,639</u>	<u>\$(6,512)</u>	<u>\$ 43,127</u>	<u>52,099</u>

See accompanying notes and accountant's compilation report.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020
WITH SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR 2019

	Without Donor <u>Restrictions</u>	With Donor <u>Restrictions</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
			2020	2019
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Change in net assets	\$ 148,074	\$ (2,775)	\$ 145,299	\$ 343,621
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Realized losses (gains) on investments	-	13,046	13,046	30,394
Unrealized losses (gains) on investments	-	(120,474)	(120,474)	(331,132)
Actuary adjustment to annuities payable	-	(6,662)	(6,662)	(1,582)
Net restricted assets released to unrestricted	(132,199)	190,022	57,823	250,606
(Increase) Decrease from :				
Receivables	(3,036)	-	(3,036)	(2,369)
Prepaid insurance	-	-	-	(30)
(Decrease) Increase from :				
Accounts payable	(975)	-	(975)	(458)
Annuity payable	(12,629)	-	(12,629)	(10,505)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(765)</u>	<u>73,157</u>	<u>72,392</u>	<u>278,545</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Proceeds from sales of investments	-	592,684	592,684	671,426
Purchase of investments	-	(614,874)	(614,874)	(896,286)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(614,874)</u>	<u>(614,874)</u>	<u>(896,286)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(22,190)</u>	<u>(22,190)</u>	<u>(224,860)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Annuity payments	-	(5,967)	(5,967)	(8,923)
Cash transferred to Society	-	(45,000)	(45,000)	(45,000)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(50,967)</u>	<u>(50,967)</u>	<u>(53,923)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(50,967)</u>	<u>(50,967)</u>	<u>(53,923)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash	(765)	-	(765)	(238)
CASH , BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,983</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,983</u>	<u>2,221</u>
CASH , END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 1,218</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,218</u>	<u>\$ 1,983</u>

See accompanying notes and accountant's compilation report.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2020

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This summary of significant accounting policies of International Foundation of American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (the Foundation) is presented to assist in understanding the Foundation's financial statements. The financial statements and notes are representations of the Foundation's management who is responsible for their integrity and objectivity. These accounting policies conform to generally accepted accounting principles and have been consistently applied in the preparation of the financial statements.

Organization

The Foundation was incorporated in the state of Colorado in March 1974 and is a not-for-profit organization. The Foundation is responsible for exercising financial stewardship to generate, manage, and allocate resources, which advance the mission and assist in securing the future of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (The Society) with headquarters located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The Foundation reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets: net assets without donor restrictions and net assets with donor restrictions.

Net Assets without Donor Restrictions – Net assets that are not subject to or are no longer subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

Net Assets with Donor Restrictions – Net assets whose use is limited by donor-imposed time and/or purpose restrictions.

Revenues are reported as increases in net assets without donor restriction unless use of the related assets is limited by donor-imposed restrictions. Expenses are reported as decreases in net assets without donor restriction. Gains and losses on investments and other assets or liabilities are reported as increases or decreases in net assets without donor restrictions unless their use is restricted by explicit donor stipulation or by law. Expirations of donor restrictions on the net assets (i.e., the donor-stipulated purpose has been fulfilled and/or the stipulated time period has elapsed) are reported as reclassifications between the applicable classes of net assets. The Foundation adopted a policy to classify donor restricted contributions as without donor restrictions to the extent that donor restrictions were met in the year the contribution was received.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2020

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Promises to Give

Unconditional promises to give are recognized as contribution revenue in the period received and as assets, decreases of liabilities, or expenses depending on the form of the benefits received. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. There were no promises to give as of the end of the calendar year.

Investments

The Foundation reports its investments in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations, which establish accounting standards for investments in certain equity securities and for all debt securities. The guidance prescribes that covered investments be reported in the statement of financial position at fair value with any realized or unrealized gains or losses reported in the statement of activities.

Investment income is recognized as revenue in the period it is earned and gains and losses are recognized as changes in net assets in the accounting period in which they occur.

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The financial statements report certain categories of expenses that are attributed to more than one program or supporting function. Therefore, expenses require allocation on a reasonable basis that is consistently applied. The expenses that are allocated include professional services, office expenses, information technology, insurance, and other, which are allocated on the basis of estimates of time and effort.

Federal Income Taxes

The Foundation was incorporated under the laws of Colorado and exempt from federal and state income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Foundation recognizes the financial statement effects from a tax position only if it is more likely than not that the tax position will be sustained on examination by taxing authorities, based on the technical merits of the position. Examples of tax positions include the tax-exempt status of the Foundation and various positions related to the potential sources of unrelated business taxable income (UBIT). The assessment of the technical merits of a tax position is a matter of judgment. The Foundation believes that all its tax positions are more likely than not to be sustained upon examination.

The Foundation files Forms 990 in the U.S. federal jurisdiction. The Foundation is generally no longer subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service for years before 2018.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2020

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Contributed Services

No amounts have been reflected in the statements for contributed personal services inasmuch as no objective basis is available to measure the value of such services. However, a substantial number of volunteers have donated significant amounts of time in the organization's program services and fundraising activities.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Total Columns

The financial statements include certain prior-year summarized comparative information in total but not by net asset class. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the organization's financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2019, from which the summarized information was derived.

NOTE 2. CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Investments are maintained at US Bank and are invested in mutual funds operated by US Bank. These amounts will exceed the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) coverage limit of \$500,000. The Foundation has not experienced any losses on these accounts and believes the Foundation is not exposed to any significant losses from accounts held by US Bank.

NOTE 3. INVESTMENTS HELD FOR AHSGR

The Foundation is also holding funds from the sale of the Amen House from August 2005, and the Museum Activities Fund for museum-related activities and purposes in the broadest sense. No funds from these investments were transferred to The Society during 2020. As of December 31, 2020, the Foundation is holding the following funds on behalf of the Society:

Amen House	\$ 64,206
Museum Activities	<u>21,800</u>
	<u>\$ 86,006</u>

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2020

NOTE 4. INVESTMENTS

Investments in marketable securities are stated at fair value and are composed of the following:

	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Unrealized Gain (Loss)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 38,661	\$ 38,661	\$ -0-
U.S. Equity	876,717	637,825	238,892
Foreign Equity	374,499	310,657	63,842
Hedged Equity	3,258	2,863	395
Fixed Income	1,277,159	1,162,493	114,666
U.S. Listed Real Estate	<u>126,038</u>	<u>140,663</u>	<u>(14,625)</u>
Totals	<u>\$2,696,332</u>	<u>\$2,293,162</u>	<u>\$403,170</u>

Included in the above Fair Value is \$86,006 that is held for the benefit of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

Generally accepted accounting principles establish a hierarchy that prioritizes inputs to valuation methods. The three levels of inputs are:

Level 1 – Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Partnership has the ability to access.

Level 2 – Observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These inputs may include quoted prices for the identical instrument on an inactive market, prices for similar instruments, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, yield curves, default rates and similar data.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability, to the extent relevant observable inputs are not available; representing the Foundation's own assumptions about the assumptions a market participant would use in valuing the asset or liability and would be based on the best information available.

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NOTE 4. INVESTMENTS (Continued)

The availability of observable inputs can vary from security to security and is affected by a wide variety of factors, including, for example, the type of security, whether the security is new and not yet established in the marketplace, the liquidity of markets, and other characteristics particular to the security. To the extent that valuation is based on models or inputs that are less observable or unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Accordingly, the degree of judgment exercised in determining fair value is greatest for instruments categorized in Level 3. The inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, for disclosure purposes, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement falls in its entirety, is determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

Fair Value Measurement

The following table sets forth the balances of marketable securities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2020.

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets For Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 38,661	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Equity	876,717	-	-
Foreign Equity	374,499	-	-
Hedged Equity	3,258	-	-
Fixed Income	1,277,159	-	-
U.S. Listed Real Estate	<u>126,038</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$2,696,332</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

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NOTE 5. ANNUITIES

The Foundation has entered into charitable gift annuity agreements, which require fixed periodic payments for the remaining lives of designated beneficiaries, in exchange for one-time transfers of cash. The transfers are treated as net assets with donor restrictions at the time of the donation. The Foundation's policy is to temporarily restrict the amount of the gifts (net present value of future annuity payments) until the donor passes away. When the restriction is lifted at the time of the donor's death, the gift is then unrestricted and available for use in the general operations of the Foundation.

The present value of the actuarially determined liabilities for the annuities is treated as unrestricted net assets since the funds will be transferred to the unrestricted net assets when the restrictions lapse. During the current year \$5,967 was paid out to the annuitants, and it was determined that \$6,663 was a benefit in the current year based on the annuitants that passed away in 2020 and on the actuarial adjustment to annuities imputed interest rate of 6% or the applicable federal rate in effect at the time the charitable gift annuity was executed.

The Foundation has decided not to issue any more annuities and the existing liabilities will be phased out as the annuitants pass away.

NOTE 6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Foundation was founded as a supporting organization for the Society. The Society is a separate not-for-profit organization and was formed to engage in historical, literary, educational and research activities relating to Germans who immigrated to Russia and subsequently immigrated to North and South America. During 2020, the Foundation transferred \$45,000 to the Society. The transfer came from the following Funds:

Endowment Fund	<u>\$45,000</u>
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NOTE 7. RESTRICTIONS ON NET ASSETS

Net assets without donor restrictions include all investments and other net assets that are not restricted as described below.

In March 2007, the Board of Trustees changed the name of the current Operating Reserve Fund to the Edith Spady Fund, which included the \$16,000 principal from the donor as well as all interest earned beginning January 2007. These funds are to be used exclusively for the purchase of historical records from Russia and added to the William and Edith Spady CIS Historical Records Collection. The funds will be held by the Foundation until the Society makes the acquisitions.

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NOTE 7. RESTRICTIONS ON NET ASSETS (Continued)

Net assets with donor restrictions are available for the following purposes as of December 31, 2020:

Restricted for acquisitions from Russia	\$ 4,191
Restricted for annuities	39,375
Permanent endowment	1,617,940
Flegel Living Legacy	119,052
Hile Living Legacy	25,413
Schnell Living Legacy	<u>5,100</u>
Total	<u>\$1,811,071</u>

The changes in the endowment net assets as of December 31, 2020:

	Endowment	Flegel	Hile	Schnell	Total
Beginning net assets January 1, 2020	\$1,608,695	\$118,852	\$25,363	\$5,100	\$1,758,010
Contributions	9,245	200	50	-	9,495
Net investment income	149,978	12,173	3,362	-	165,513
Transfer to AHSGR	(45,000)	-	-	-	(45,000)
Reimbursement (due to) the net assets without donor restrictions	<u>(104,978)</u>	<u>(12,173)</u>	<u>(3,362)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(120,513)</u>
Ending net assets December 31, 2020	<u>\$1,617,940</u>	<u>\$119,052</u>	<u>\$25,413</u>	<u>\$5,100</u>	<u>\$1,767,505</u>

In May 2017, Karen H McDonald established The Paul and Helen Hile Living Legacy Fund with the intent that the income from the corpus will further the mission of the AHSGR. The Agreement will be fully funded when contributions reach \$50,000. The contributions to this fund will be held in perpetuity and income generated from the investment will be available to provide support to AHSGR.

In December 2017 The Russell C. Schnell Living Legacy Fund was established with a like kind fund being established in Canada. The intent of the United States legacy fund is for producing library materials, housing materials, obtaining German Russian materials and providing research opportunities. It is the intent for the fund to be fully funded at \$100,000 with the lessor of 5% or income to be distributed to AHSGR.

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NOTE 8. ENDOWMENTS

Return objectives and risk parameters

The Foundation has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets. Endowment assets include those assets of donor-restricted funds that the Foundation must hold in perpetuity or for a donor-specified period. Under this policy, as approved by the Foundation's Board of Trustees, the endowment assets are invested in a manner that is intended to protect the corpus of the Foundation by selecting high grade and low risk securities and to maximize income.

Investment strategies

To satisfy its long-term rate-of-return objectives, the Foundation relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Foundation targets a diversified asset allocation that places a greater emphasis on high grade and low risk securities to achieve its long-term return objectives within prudent risk constraints.

NOTE 9. NET INVESTMENT INCOME

Net investment income consists of the following:

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
Interest Income	\$ -	\$ 236	\$ 236
Dividend Income	-	91,625	91,625
Realized gain (loss) on sale of investments	-	(13,046)	(13,046)
Unrealized gain (loss)	-	120,474	120,474
Trustee fees	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,358)</u>	<u>(20,358)</u>
Net investment income (loss)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$178,931</u>	<u>\$178,931</u>

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Note 10. AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The following reflects the Foundations financial assets as of the balance sheet date, reduced by amounts not available for general use within one year of the balance sheet date because of contractual or donor-imposed restrictions or internal designations. Amounts not available include amounts set aside for long-term investing in the operating and capital reserves that could be drawn upon if the governing board approves that action.

	<u>12-31-2020</u>	<u>12-31-2019</u>
Cash	\$ 1,218	\$ 1,983
Receivables	5,155	2,119
Investments	<u>2,696,332</u>	<u>2,559,481</u>
Total Financial Assets	<u>2,702,705</u>	<u>2,563,583</u>
Contractual or donor-imposed restrictions:		
Endowment funds	(1,767,505)	(1,758,010)
Other donor restrictions	(4,191)	(3,832)
Annuities Payable	(39,375)	(52,004)
Investments held for AHSGR	<u>(86,006)</u>	<u>(78,579)</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 805,628</u>	<u>\$ 671,158</u>

NOTE 12. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Foundation has evaluated subsequent events for potential recognition and/or disclosure through May 3, 2021, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Speaker Biographies

The Black Sea German Research Website



CAROLYN SCHOTT

CAROLYN SCHOTT AND GAYLA ASPENLEITER

Carolyn Schott has researched her German ancestors for 20 years. She's a founder of the Black Sea German Research Community, a former board member of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society, and author of the book, *"Visiting Your Ancestral Town."*

Gayla Aspenleiter is a Webmaster and database administrator for the Black Sea German Research Group. Her research focuses on mainly Lutheran families in the Odessa area of South Russia where her great grandparents settled.

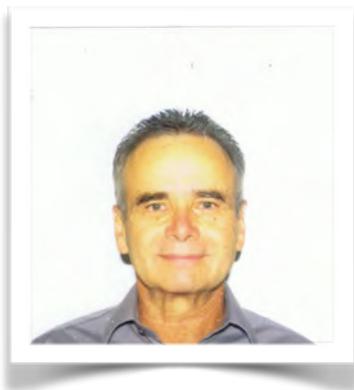


GAYLA ASPENLEITER

The Black Sea German website can be found at: www.blacksea-gr.org

Carolyn's website is: <https://carolynschott.com/published/>

Identifying Volga German First Settlers in Danish and Schleswig Parish Records



WAYNE BONNER

WAYNE H. BONNER

Wayne Bonner has been interested in his ancestry since childhood. He would often ask his mother questions about life in the German South Bottoms of Lincoln where she was born and later raised in Chicago. Wayne could never understand how a German could be born in Russia. As Wayne grew older and got into genealogy, this question continued to intrigue him. Finally, one day through a serendipitous event, his family discovered the AHSGR. At the first meeting, his age old question was finally solved, but it only lead to more questions. Through his quest for more information, Wayne has pushed his research beyond Russia into the German origins of the Volga German settlers which is his primary interest today in addition to assisting fellow Balzer and Moor researchers. Wayne has been a member of the Southern California Chapter of AHSGR since 1983. He has been the village coordinator for Balzer for about 25 years and village coordinator for Moor for over 20 years.

His ancestry is primarily English and Irish, with a little French Canadian and Pennsylvania German. He also has a drop of Native America heritage. In addition to his life membership in AHSGR, Wayne is a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants through his father's lineage, and the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) of Canada.

Wayne is married to Diane F. Sailer of New York who recently found out that she has an ancestor who went to the German-Russian colony of Riebendorf. He was educated at California State University Long Beach, UCLA, and Reading University in England. Wayne was a professional certified research archaeologist for 40 years. He has been retired for six years.

Germans from Russia Traveled! Finding Germans from Russia in U.S. Passport Records



ALLYN BROSZ

ALLYN BROSZ

Allyn Brosz is a South Dakota native with German-Russian ancestry in Bessarabia and the Glueckstal colonies. He holds bachelors and masters degrees in political science, public administration, and public policy. Early in his career he studied in Germany on a Fulbright grant. Allyn recently retired from a civilian position at the U.S. Department of Defense and has presented at a number of AHSGR and GRHS conventions over the past 25 years. He has served on the AHSGR Board of Directors and has published in the **AHSGR Journal** and **Clues**.

The Road to Warenburg: Interpreting a Village with Maps and Images

RICHARD KISLING IN COLLABORATION WITH RONALD BROTT RONALD BROTT

Ronald Brott was born in Beatrice, Nebraska and lived amongst Black Sea Mennonites and Volga Am Trakt Mennonites on a farm north of Jansen, Nebraska. After leaving the farm, he and his family moved to the west side of Lincoln, Nebraska. Ronald again found himself surrounded by German Russians, this time Volga Germans. Many of his school classmate friends at Lincoln Lutheran Junior High School and later at Lincoln High School were of Volga German descent.

He received his Associate in Applied Science degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. He has worked as a civil engineering technician in the Des Moines, Iowa area for over fifty years. Ronald and his wife April will celebrate their first 50 years of marriage this August.

Ronald joined AHSGR in 1984 where he later served as Treasurer of the International Foundation of AHSGR for a total of four years. Ronald has been a member of the Iowa Wild Rose Chapter since its inception.

RICHARD KISLING

Richard Kisling grew up on a cotton and wheat farm in the southern San Joaquin Valley in Tulare County, California. Both of his parents were from Volga German families in nearby Fresno, so there were regular visits to German-speaking relatives. Richard joined AHSGR in 1982 and subsequently was active in the Golden Gate Chapter.

Richard interviewed his grandfather multiple times over five years in the mid-1980s, and then he was successful in locating two of his grandfather's nephews in Kazakhstan and Tadzhikistan.

Both nephews later migrated to Germany as Spätaussiedler, and Richard visited them there in 2002.

Richard completed bachelor's and master's degrees in Music Education and Piano Performance at Pacific Union College, Angwin, California. After moving to the Bay Area in 1972, he worked as a choral music teacher, sang with the symphony choruses in Oakland and San Francisco, and frequently performed as piano accompanist for recital singers. He also served as a church organist for many years. He completed his career at Chevron headquarters, where he managed office facilities, facilitated meetings, led teams, and worked as an export compliance specialist.

Since retiring seven years ago, he has completed all of the available German classes in Sonoma County where he lives, and he has taken up the piano again to study Bach's "Das wohltemperierte Klavier."



RICHARD KISLING

The Gemütlichkeit of Poetry

SHARON (GRENZ) CHMIELARZ

Sharon Chmielarz was born and raised in Mobridge, South Dakota. She graduated with degrees in German, English and Education. Her latest, twelfth, book of poetry is *The J Horoscope*, 2019. A new book, *Speaking in Riddles*, is out spring, 2021. Previous books have been finalists for the Independent Book Publishers Award, Midwest Book Awards, National Poetry Series, and the Next Generation Indie Book Awards. Kirkus Review named her *The Widow's House* and *The J Horoscope* one of the 100 Best Books of 2016 and 2019. She has read at several venues in the Twin Cities, in Duluth and Grand Marais MN, New York City, Toronto, Tucson, the Dakotas, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, California, and North Carolina.

The South Dakota State Poetry Society recognized Sharon (Grenz) Chmielarz with its 2021 Poet of Merit Award. This is a fairly new award, given by the SD Poetry Society in years that fall in between the announcement of a new Poet Laureate.



**SHARON (GRENZ)
CHMIELARZ**

Making Strawberry Verenicks (verenick) from our Central California Chapter cookbook



CONNIE (ENGELMAN) COBERLY

I was born in California to German from Russia parents; Theodor Engelman and Pauline Engelman (who came from Froid in NE Montana). I was raised and went to school in Fresno, CA. I've been married to Larry Coberly for 60 years and have 2 children, Suzanne and Keith. I've been a member of AHSGR-CCC since 2004 and on the board for many of those years.

WITH JIM DEIS, VIDEOGRAPHER

I am a retired educator who was born and raised



in the Easton/Fresno area. My daughter, Erin, has inspired me to get into the history of the Germans from Russia, including a trip we took to visit Kukkus and Straub (family villages) three years ago. Erin also won the story telling award and read her manuscript at the convention in Jackson Hole, WY.

Cultural Differences Among Germans from Russia

Cultural Evolution of a Russian German Family



WILHELM G. DOOS, MD

WILHELM G. DOOS, MD
FEATURED SPEAKER ANNUAL MEETING

Bill is a 1.5 generation Russian German immigrant who has been studying the history of Russian Germans for over 30 years.

Mennonites in California: Beyond the Stereotypes

KEVIN ENNS-REMPEL

Kevin Enns-Rempel is the Director of Hiebert Library at Fresno Pacific University. From 1984 until 2015 he was archivist in the Mennonite Library & Archives, also at Fresno Pacific University.



KEVIN ENNS-REMPEL

Go North Young Man: The Remarkable story of Germans from Russia Immigration from the US to the Canadian Prairies 1896 to 1914



WAYNE GARMAN

WAYNE GARMAN

I grew up on a mixed farm southeast of the town of Allan, Saskatchewan, Canada, a predominantly Germans from Russia town near Saskatoon in central Saskatchewan.

Both of my parents were descendants of Germans from Russia. My father's family came from the villages of Elsass and Strassburg of the Black Sea, Kutschurgan region. My mother's family is Mennonite, and came from the Chortitza region, northeast of the Black Sea, from the village of Neu Chortitza.

History has always been an interest of mine. With more time on my hands upon semi-retirement, I was able to complete a Masters of History degree from Texas State University. My desire is that historical research and writing will be my retirement career.

I visited my ancestral villages in the Kutschurgan region of the Ukraine as part of the NDSU 2018 Homeland Tour.

German Origins, Challenges and Solutions

MAGGIE HEIN

Maggie is one of the AHSGR Village Coordinators for the village of Frank. Her current research project is to identify the German and French origin locations of all of the settlers in Frank and Kolb. When she isn't doing genealogy research, she is a tax accountant and co-owner of a CPA firm in the Chicago suburbs.

Maggie writes a blog provides explanatory material that would be helpful to anyone attending the session.

<https://www.volgagermans.org/blog>



MAGGIE HEIN

"If God Would Have Mercy": Post-WWII German-Russian Refugee Letters

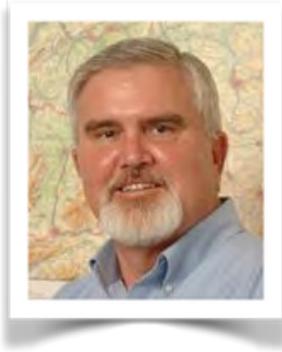
TORIE JONES

Torie is a native of the Fessenden, ND area and began working as an undergraduate intern at the NDSU Libraries' Germans from Russia Heritage Collection (GRHC) in July 2015. Torie graduated from NDSU with a triple major in Horticulture, Public History, and History in December 2018 and began pursuing her Masters Degree in Public History in August 2019. She occupied many roles at the GRHC, the most recent being Graduate Assistant. In January 2021, life took her away from Fargo and the GRHC and closer to German-Russian country. While she continues her Masters, she is working at NDSU Extension – LaMoure County. She currently lives on a farm/ranch near Marion, ND with her fiancé.



TORIE JONES

Russian German Dialects in Kansas



WILLIAM KEEL

WILLIAM KEEL

Professor Keel retired after 42 years at the University of Kansas in 2019. He currently teaches courses on German settlements and dialects in Kansas with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and collaborates with KU ScholarWorks on “German Dialect Recordings from Kansas and Missouri.” He edits the Yearbook of German-American Studies and chairs Sister Cities Lawrence.

Researching Your Genealogy in Russian Archives

MILA KORETNIKOV

Dr. Mila Koretnikov, whose mother’s Volga German family was deported to Siberia from the colony of N. Dobrinka in 1941, is a lecturer in cross-cultural communication at the Cooperative University of Baden-Württemberg in Karlsruhe, Germany, and a teacher of Business English at Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft in Karlsruhe, Germany. She has also spoken world-wide on the subject of Volga German culture and history, and serves on behalf of the AHSGR, GRHS, and Volga German Institute at UNF as a lead researcher and translator for interactions with Russian archives. Since 2015 Dr. Koretnikov has been leading tours to ancestral villages in the Volga area. She grew up in Russia and holds degrees from Saratov State University. She did post-doc study at the University of Wyoming.



MILA KORETNIKOV

You are welcome to email her at koretmila@gmail.com.

Germans from Russia and the Railroads: A Continued Investigation

BOB LETTENBERGER, EDUCATION DIRECTOR – NATIONAL RAILROAD MUSEUM

Bob Lettenberger currently serves as director of education for the National Railroad Museum. Lettenberger has been part of the Museum staff since 1999, when he began as operations manager and communications director. In his capacity as Educator, the Museum’s programming has grown to serve over 11,000 patrons annually. Currently the education department offers a range of programs from children’s storytime to continuing education courses for adults. Lettenberger has a passion for railroads and their history, which has lead him to represent the Museum in such national settings as History Channel’s Modern Marvels, Travel Channel’s Mysteries of the Museum and C-Span’s American History TV. In his time with the Museum, he has also served as a consultant to other historical organizations on railroad-related topics and reviewed numerous children’s books dealing with trains. Lettenberger completed is undergraduate studies in journalism and broadcasting at UW-Oshkosh.

Cousins (DNA + Genealogy)

LEE MACKLIN, MBA, MIS

Mr. Macklin has given many Genealogy and DNA-based presentations and published articles in journals, newsletters, and websites. He has extensively researched genetic genealogy and worked with many people analyzing their Ancestry.com and 23andMe DNA test results. He spent many years in private industry as a software engineer and technical project manager. He also held several technology management positions at the State of California. He has an MBA and Master's Degree in Information Technology. He is a military veteran, U.S. Navy, Vietnam era.



LEE MACKLIN, MBA,
MIS

Odessa! Notes on a Roots Journey to the Black Sea

DEBRA MARQUART

Debra Marquart is a Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Iowa State University and Iowa's Poet Laureate. She is the Senior Editor of *Flyway: Journal of Writing & Environment*. A memoirist, poet, and performing musician, Marquart is the author of seven books including an environmental memoir of place, *The Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild in the Middle of Nowhere* and a collection of poems, *Small Buried Things: Poems*. Marquart teaches in ISU's interdisciplinary MFA Program in Creative Writing and Environment and in the Stonecoast Low-Residency MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine. Her next two books, *Gratitude with Dogs Under Stars: New & Collected Poems* and *The Night We Landed on the Moon: Essays of Exile & Belonging*, are forthcoming in 2021.



DEBRA MARQUART

A memoirist, poet, and performing musician, Marquart is the author of seven books including an environmental memoir of place, *The Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild in the Middle of Nowhere* and a collection of poems, *Small Buried Things: Poems*. Marquart's most recent book, *The Night We Landed on the Moon: Essays Between Exile & Belonging*, was published in 2021. Marquart's short story collection, *The Hunger Bone: Rock & Roll Stories* drew on her experiences as a former road musician. A singer/songwriter, she continues to perform solo and with her jazz-poetry performance project, *The Bone People*, with whom she has recorded two CDs. Her poetry collection, "Gratitude with Dogs Under Stars: New & Collected Poems" is forthcoming from New Rivers Press.

For More Information: debramarquart.com

The Russian German Community in World War I: A prelude to life in the Soviet Union.

ULRICH MERTEN

The author was born in Berlin, Germany and came to the United States as a small child before the Second World War. Mr. Merten grew up in New York City and after the war, returned to Europe, studying at the University of Zürich, Switzerland and the University of Zaragoza in Spain. He subsequently earned his BA degree at Columbia College, Columbia University and M.A. at the Graduate Faculties, Columbia University.



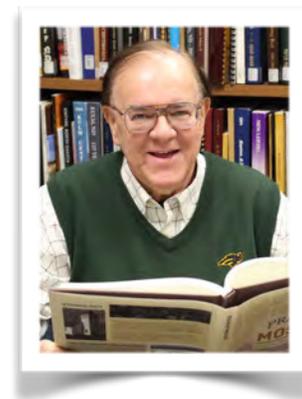
ULRICH MERTEN

In his professional life he was an international banker, a senior executive of the Bank of America, working almost exclusively in Latin America and the Caribbean, over a period of 38 years. His book, *“Forgotten Voices; The Expulsion of the Germans from Eastern Europe after World War II”* was published in 2012 by Transaction Publishers,, New Brunswick, New Jersey. In (2015) a companion history was published by the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Lincoln, Nebraska, entitled *“Voices from the Gulag: The Oppression of the German minority in the Soviet Union”*. Mr. Merten’s most recent book, *“The Gulag in East Germany: Soviet Special Camps, 1945-1950”* was published in 2018, by Teneo Press, Amherst, New York. The author lives in Miami, Florida.

A Volga German Foodways Documentary –

MICHAEL MILLER & DODIE ROTHERHAM.

Michael M. Miller is Director & Bibliographer at the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, North Dakota State University Libraries, Fargo. He has been at NDSU since 1967. Miller compiled the book, *Researching the Germans from Russia: Annotated Bibliography of the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection* (1987). He is co-author of *The Peter Miller (Mueller) Genealogy* (2008) and *The Welk Homestead: A Source Book* (2015). He was instrumental to securing the Lawrence Welk Collection at the NDSU Archives. Michael is executive producer of ten documentaries in the award-winning Prairie Public Germans from Russia Documentary Series. In 1996, Michael began leading the Journey to the Homeland Tours to Germany and Ukraine continues to co-lead them today, he has led 23 tours to date. Miller is a native of Strasburg, ND, where he grew up speaking English and German. His Baumgartner family emigrated in 1889 from Strassburg, Kutschurgan District, South Russia, to Strasburg, ND. His Miller (Mueller) family emigrated in 1894 from Krasna, Bessarabia, to Krasna, ND. His higher education degrees are: Bachelor of Science, Valley City State University; Master of Science and Master of Education, University of North Dakota.



MICHAEL MILLER

Michael.Miller@ndsu.edu

Donita “Dodie” Reich Rotherham grew up in the North Bottoms in Lincoln, Nebraska. Both her maternal and paternal families were Volga Germans. Her grandparents immigrated to the USA in 1910 and 1912 and lived their entire lives in the North Bottoms in Lincoln.

She has been interested in her family history since childhood. Her maternal grandparents lived next door and paternal grandparents 1 ½ blocks away. She grew up hearing stories and kept notes of life on the Volga, the ships on the Volga, the marriage maker visits, arranged marriages and the terrible winter storms endured by the villagers.

For the past 40 years she has actively researched her family and has connected to relatives in Siberia and Germany, connecting with her grand uncles family this past year and her French connection in 2019.

Dodie has been a member of AHSGR since the 1970's and an active board member since 2007. She is currently involved with raising funds to purchase records from Russia and for the documentary of Volga German Foodways. She also continues to work with the Ancestral/Genalogy committee's small publishing group, translating and editing vital records. The past year she has chaired the 'Passports to Freedom' Committee and co-chaired the 'Letters from Hell' project.

Dodie served as AHSGR president 2017 - 2020

Germans in the Towns of Tsarist Russia and the early Soviet State



REINHOLD NACHTIGAL

REINHARD NACHTIGAL

Reinhard Nachtigal studied European History, English and Slavic philology at the universities of Münster (Westphalia), Edinburgh (Scotland), and eventually took his doctoral exams at Freiburg University with a thesis on Central Powers' prisoners of war in WWI Russia. Since then he has published on late Tsarist Russia, on humanitarian initiatives during WWI and WW II, on Germans in Russia, on the organisation of public health in Tsarist Russia and the early Soviet Union, and on the history of transport in Russia (Murmansk Railway, Communications in the Caucasus). He was involved in editorial work for publications on Russian history and literature, in translation and in consulting for historical documentary. From 2012 until 2016 he was a fellow of the Collaborative Research Center at Freiburg University on "Heroization, Heroes and Heroisms". He studied German, British and Austrian archival sources for a hitherto neglected aspect of WWI naval war, the role of hospital ships during War.

He is the author of five monographs, two of which had been published in Russian language. His book on the construction of the Murmansk Railway in 1915-1918 has seen a second German edition

and is designed for an English translation.

What's new in Family Tree Maker

MARK OLSEN

Mark Olsen is the Family Tree Maker Ambassador to historical and genealogical societies around the world working to support their members as they use Family Tree Maker. Mark is a graduate of Brigham Young University and holds a bachelor's degree in Family History with a Spanish records emphasis. He has been working in the genealogy industry since 2007.

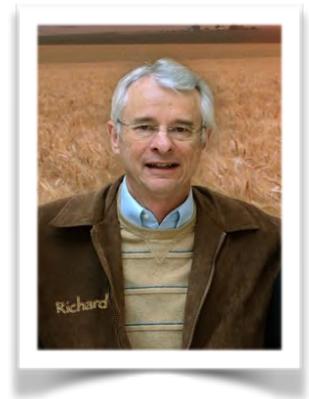


MARK OLSEN

Hardship to Homeland: Folktales of Pacific Northwest Germans from Russia

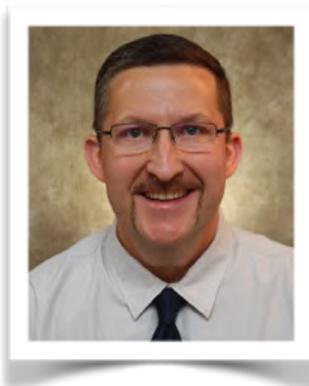
RICHARD SCHEUERMAN
OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Richard Scheuerman is professor emeritus of education and history at Seattle Pacific University and the author of several books on Northwest regional themes including *Hardship to Homeland: Pacific Northwest Volga Germans*. He has traveled to Russia a dozen times to facilitate student exchanges and retrieve documents on Russian-German history from state archives. Scheuerman is also cofounder of Palouse Colony Farm near his hometown of Endicott, Washington, where the family raises heritage grains and operates an artisan flour milling operation.



RICHARD SCHEUERMAN

The Intersecting Lives and Fates of Bishop Anton Zerr of the Tiraspol Diocese and the Schmalz Family of Kandel in South Russia



DR. ERIC J. SCHMALTZ

DR. ERIC J. SCHMALTZ

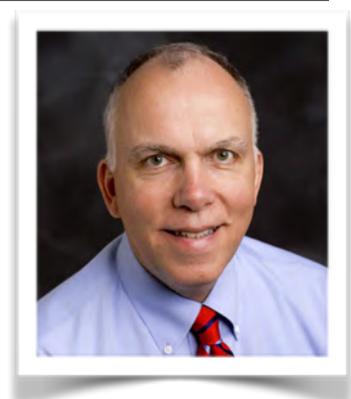
Eric J. Schmalz earned a Ph.D. in History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Since 2005, he has taught Modern European, American, and World History at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva and in 2019 began serving as Departmental Chair of Social Sciences. In 2014, he received the John Barton Distinguished Teaching and Service Award at his university and has been nominated for it on three other occasions. His research concentrates on Modern Germany and Modern Russia with an emphasis on ethnic and nationality issues, as well as German migration topics. Over the past three decades, he has contributed a variety of articles and translations to AHSGR, GRHS, and the North Dakota State University Libraries in Fargo and has given frequent public talks both here and abroad. His other articles and reviews have appeared in local newspapers, interdisciplinary journals, and major international anthologies.

Is My Name Schreiber or Becker? - How One Volga German Solved a Mystery and Found Their Ancestral Home in Germany

STEVE SCHREIBER

Steve Schreiber is a native of Oregon and graduated from Oregon State University. He served as the Director of Portland International Airport which has been recognized as one of the best airports in North America. After retirement from the Port of Portland, Steve continued his professional career as an airport consultant.

Steve is a descendant of Volga Germans through both his maternal and paternal families. Dedicated to AHSGR, Steve is a Life Member and served as President of the Oregon Chapter. Over the years,



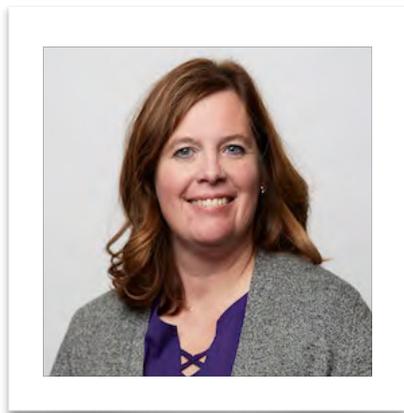
STEVE SCHREIBER

Steve has had the opportunity to visit his ancestral villages in Germany and Russia.

Steve is passionate about documenting his family history and enjoys sharing what he has learned with others. He is the webmaster for the Norka, Russia and Volga Germans in Portland websites. He also assists with The Volga Germans website.

Importance of Family History in Genealogy Work: Oral history: A crucial piece in family history

RACHEL J TROTTER, EVALOGUE COMPANY



RACHEL J TROTTER

Rachel has been telling stories since she could walk and talk. As a little girl, she would draw for hours and make up stories to go along with her artwork. Before coming to Evalogue.Life, she worked as a newspaper reporter for 17 years at Ogden's local newspaper, The Standard-Examiner. She reported on heavy topics ranging from heated city elections to local school issues. But her love for writing about people's life stories and their triumphs over tragedy captured her heart.

She loves family storytelling. A graduate of Weber State University, she has had articles featured on LDSLiving.com, Id-s.org, FamilySearch.org and Meridian Magazine. She has been a speaker at RootsTech, Weber State University Family History Conference, Conference on Family History at BYU and the Southern California Genealogy Jamboree. She helps people tell and write their life stories and has written six life stories with several more in production. She has also helped

several others write their own stories. She and her husband Mat have six children and she recently became a grandma! She and her family live on the East Bench in Ogden, Utah.

Growing Up German-Russian without Realizing it !

MERVIN WEISS



MERVIN WEISS

Merv Weiss grew up on a farm in southwestern Saskatchewan. All four of his grandparents were Germans born in the former Russian Empire, and who immigrated as married couples with children to Canada in 1913 and 1925. My paternal grandparents came to Saskatchewan from Odessa district in 1913. My mother came to Saskatchewan with her family from Crimea in 1925. The vast majority of the early pioneer homesteaders in the nearby communities were Germans who had emigrated from the Black Sea region of old South Russia (today Ukraine).

Merv has been actively researching his German-Russian background since the year 2000. Successful genealogical research requires an understanding of the relevant history and geography. I am a former teacher and business owner, and now retired. I am particularly fascinated by the history of the Germans who lived in Crimea, and have spent a good part of the last 20 years trying to learn more.

To this end, he has made several trips to Ukraine and to Germany. Locating and meeting de-

scendants of his Grandfather's siblings has been the most rewarding aspect of his family research.

I am a founding member of the Black Sea German Research group (www.blackseagr.org). I am also a member of GRHS and AHSGR.

Letters, genealogy, and emails: How the Volga Germans kept and re-established communication between cousins in the Americas, Germany, and Russia



FABIAN ZUBIA SCHULTHEIS

FABIAN ZUBIA SCHULTHEIS

Prof. Fabian Zubia Schultheis

He is Professor in History and works at the College of Librarians in Buenos Aires City teaching History of Cultural Processes and History of Books and Libraries. He also works at the National Library of Argentina as cataloger of Special Materials (old maps and ephemeral material). He is co-coordinator of Dönhof and Neu Dönhof at the AHSGR since 2017.

Carrying on the Needlework Traditions of the Volga German Women

DEBBIE HEARNE, NARRATOR
SHARI MEHLING STONE, QUILT TURNER
ANNETTE ADAMS, QUILT TURNER
DEE HERT, CONSULTANT
DAVE HERT, VIDEOGRAPHER

Passports to Freedom - The Immigration of the Germans from Russia to America

DODIE ROTHERHAM, AHSGR BOD, PAST PRESIDENT
NATHAN HARRIS, AHSGR RESEARCH LIBRARIAN
JONATHAN ROWE, AHSGR PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR
SARA ROBERTS, CONSULTANT
MILA KORETNIKOV, CONSULTANT
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