

The 53rd International Convention of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia



Roots of Our Heritage

Greeley, CO - August 3-5, 2023



AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
Honoring our Past • Embracing the Future



DOUBLETREE
BY HILTON™

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**AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA**

Honoring our Past • Embracing the Future

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia mission is to discover, collect, preserve, and share the history, cultural heritage, and genealogical legacy 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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COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis

Greetings!

To the members and friends of The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR): Willkommen and welcome to Colorado!

We hope you enjoy our beautiful state and all of its wonders! From the glorious sights of the Rocky Mountains to the great plains, Colorado has much to offer.

I wish you all a productive and enjoyable meeting - hosted by the Northern Colorado Chapter of AHSGR - while exploring the history, culture, and contributions of Germans from Russia to northern Colorado, the U.S., and the world. The convention theme this year is "Roots of our Heritage," highlighting the sugar beet industry and the contributions of your families to that industry, agriculture, and other businesses. I hope you all enjoy this opportunity to explore your culture with song, dance, and food and spend time learning about your "Roots."

We recognize the deep-rooted history that AHSGR has in Colorado. Right from its founding in 1968 in Greeley to this week's conference that welcomes individuals from all over the world, the AHSGR community has grown immensely. Colorado is honored to have the privilege to host this convention that brings together this community to celebrate their heritage and culture.

Once again, here is a warm welcome to the beautiful state of Colorado. We are so pleased to have you here. Have a wonderful week!

Sincerely,

Jared Polis
Governor
State of Colorado



Willkommen! I'm so pleased to have an opportunity to extend a warm welcome to each of you on behalf of the Greeley community. We like to say that Greeley is a story best lived in - and many of our stories echo Greeley's agricultural history in the progress and innovation we see today. The stories of Germans from Russia who settled here make up a large part of our culture, history, and heritage, and we're proud you've chosen to meet here.

I understand you'll have an opportunity to visit Centennial Village Museum, where you'll see the replica Grauberger Shanty- a two-room beet workers' shack. Its slightly bowed roof and board-and-batten walls stand as a sturdy reminder of the resilience and determination of the Germans from Russia who settled here. Standing within that small space, it is not hard to imagine some of the challenges that rose before them.

As early as 1871, the Union Colonists recognized Weld County soil as being perfect for sugar beets. Forty years later, Great Western Sugar established beet processing factories across eastern Colorado - including in Greeley. The beet industry boomed. To meet the demand, the company brought in thousands of German speaking Russians who immigrated to the United States from Russia's Volga region in search of a better life. They were highly knowledgeable in growing beets and other root vegetables and appreciated for their skill and ingenuity.

For decades, these "Germans from Russia," with their distinct Eastern European culture, were the lifeblood of the beet industry that helped make Colorado's agricultural sector an economic success. They started off poor, living near the fields in boxcar-roofed, tar paper covered shanties like the Grauberger Shanty. Over time they helped make Weld County one of the top-producing agricultural regions in the world. Many settled in the area, buying farms for themselves and setting up businesses. Today, thousands of Greeley and Weld County residents are descended from the Germans from Russia, and proudly commemorate their heritage.

With your organization's beginnings in Greeley, your convention's theme of "Roots of our Heritage" is aptly chosen. We hope you'll enjoy your stay here, and that your farm visits, tours, celebrations, and exploration will enrich your visit and will give you a sense of the intertwined history of our community and your German Russian roots. And I hope that you'll see where your stories intersect with ours.

There is much to see and do in Greeley. While you're here, don't miss an opportunity to visit the Greeley History Museum (located downtown, at 714 8th Street) and open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's a short walk from the DoubleTree. Nearby you'll also find the Colorado Model Railroad Museum (at 680 10th Street), with 80 scale miles of train tracks; Greeley's outstanding Farmer's Market on Saturday morning (at the Depot, 902 7th Avenue); and the University of Northern Colorado's beautiful campus. We encourage you to explore our city and share your Greeley experiences with us. Please know we are proud to have you here and wish you a wonderful convention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Gates'.

John Gates
Mayor

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Badges

Wear your name badge at all times. You will not be admitted to convention sessions, meals, Bookstore, or the Research Room without it.

Bookstore

Visit the Bookstore in the UNC Bears Room. You will be able to buy a variety of books, census records, genealogy maps, and more. Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express debit/credit cards are accepted.

Research Room

Genealogy records are available for research in the Research Room in Cache LaPoudre. You may get photocopies of some research material. Volunteers will be available to assist.

Double Tree

Double Tree is the official convention headquarters, where most activities are scheduled. Meeting locations are noted in this program.

Meal Tickets

All tickets for meals must have been purchased by July 18, 2023. If you did not order meal tickets when you registered and space is available, you may purchase them at the AHSGR Registration Desk in the Lobby. You must present your name badge at meal time before entering the event and any meal tickets must be brought to the meal to be served.

Quilt Tickets

Make sure you see the beautiful quilts at the Quilt Raffle Table in the Prefunction Area. Tickets for the drawing are available for \$1 or 6 for \$5. The drawing will take place at the banquet on Saturday. You do not need to be present to win.

Registration/Information

If you have questions about convention activities, stop by the AHSGR Registration Desk in the Prefunction Area. Volunteers or AHSGR staff will help.

Silent Auction

Visit the Silent Auction in the Horace Greeley Boardroom. Many items have been donated. If you brought items to donate, leave them at the Registration Desk in the Prefunction Area. Winners must pick up their items by 3pm on Saturday, August 5.

Vendor Tables

Visit our convention vendors in the Prefunction Area.

Volunteers

Volunteers will wear ribbons on their name badges. If you need help or have questions, look for the ribbons!

Village Area Discussion Groups and Heritage Hall

Village area discussion groups will meet at times and places listed in program. Area displays and maps are in the Prefunction Area.

Message Boards

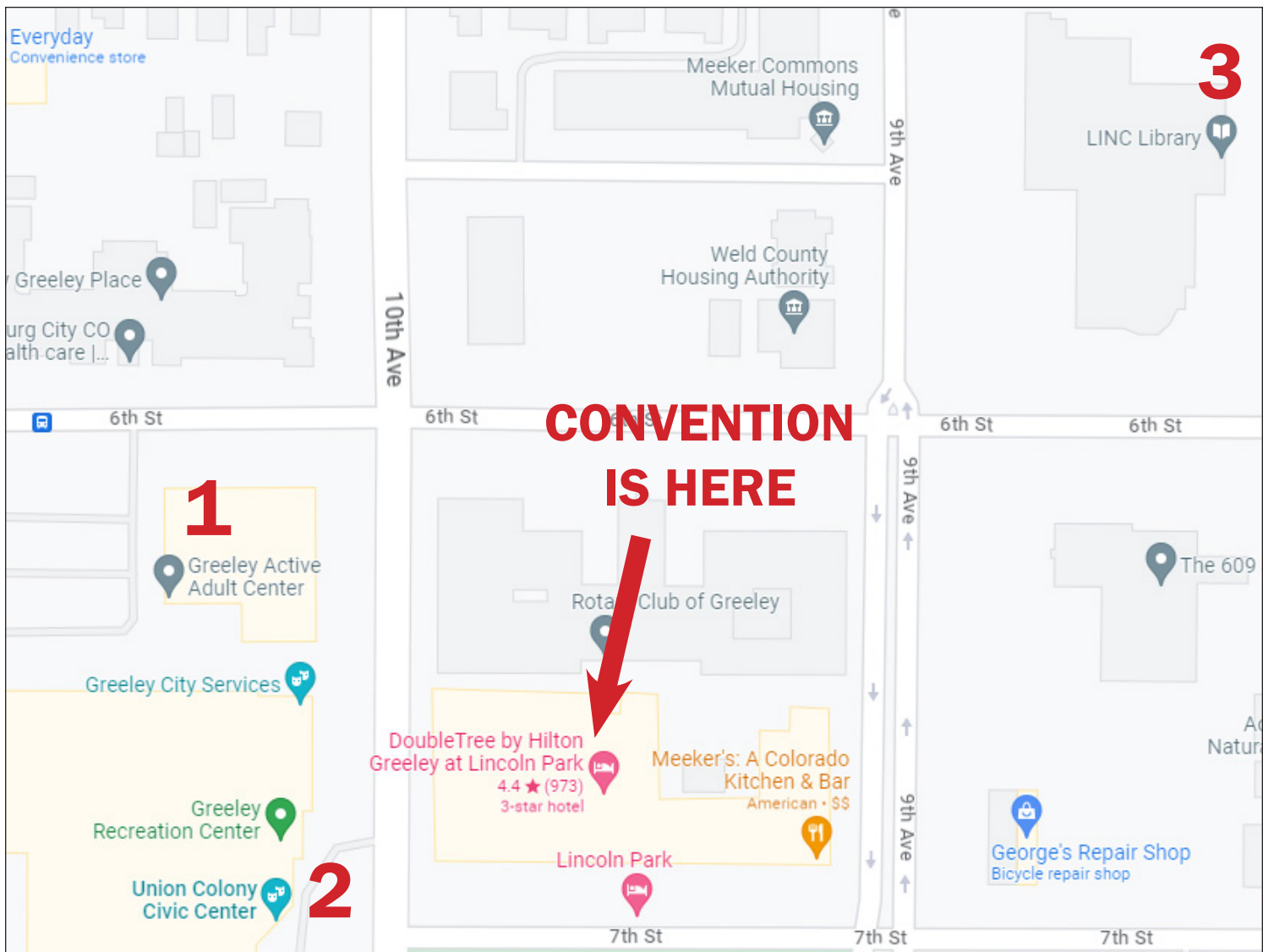
You may post messages at the main message board in the Prefunction Area.

Buses

Gather for buses for Tours and Welcome night near registration in the Prefunction Area.

Membership Desk

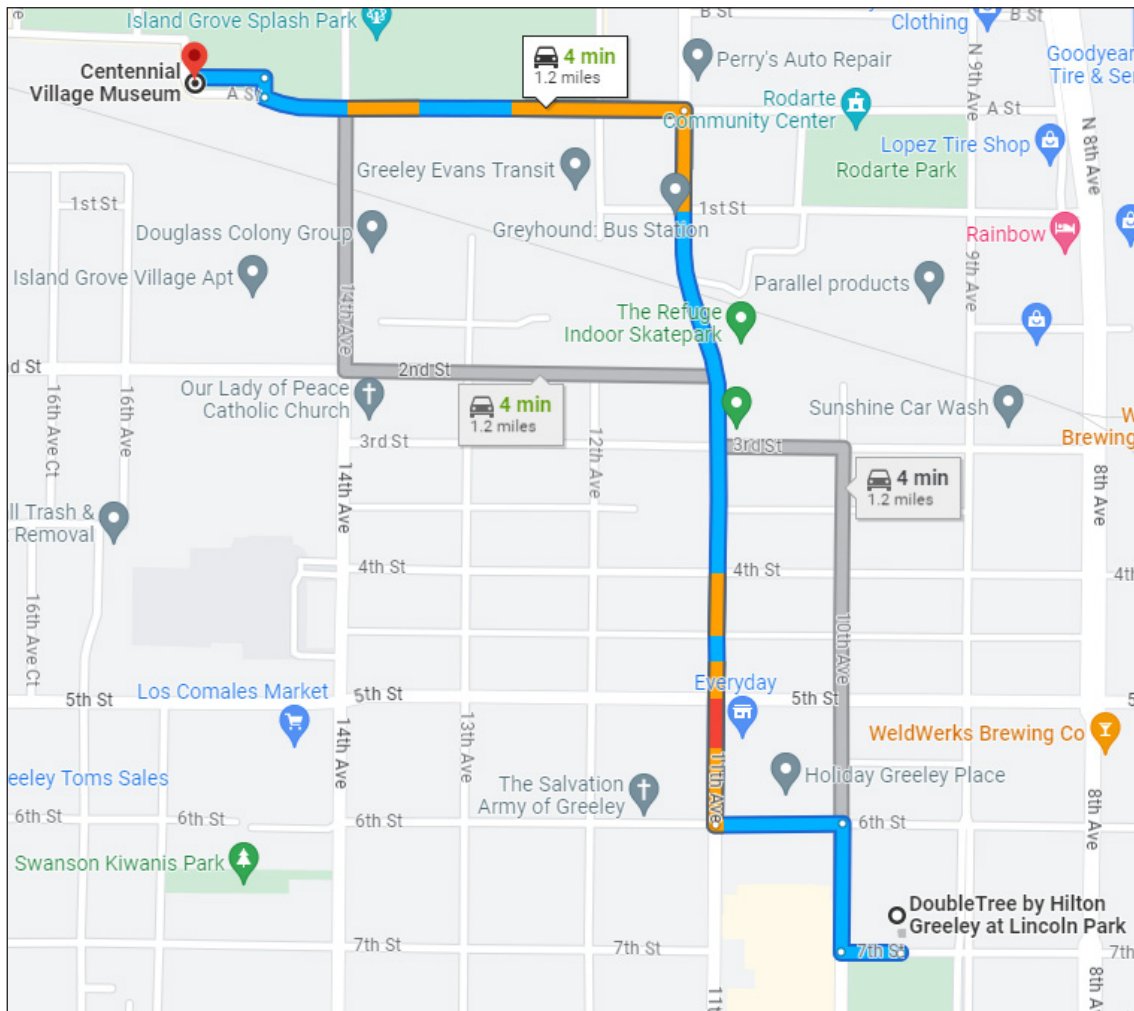
Visit the membership table for information about how we may support you and your chapter and learn about the benefits of AHSGR membership.



1. The Greeley Active Adult Center will host the *Noodle Making* and *Butterballs* food demonstrations on Thursday, August 3rd.
2. The Union Colony Civic Center will host the *Beets* play readings on Friday night and Saturday afternoon.
3. The LINC Library will host the *Youth Program* on Saturday, August 5th at 10:30 am.

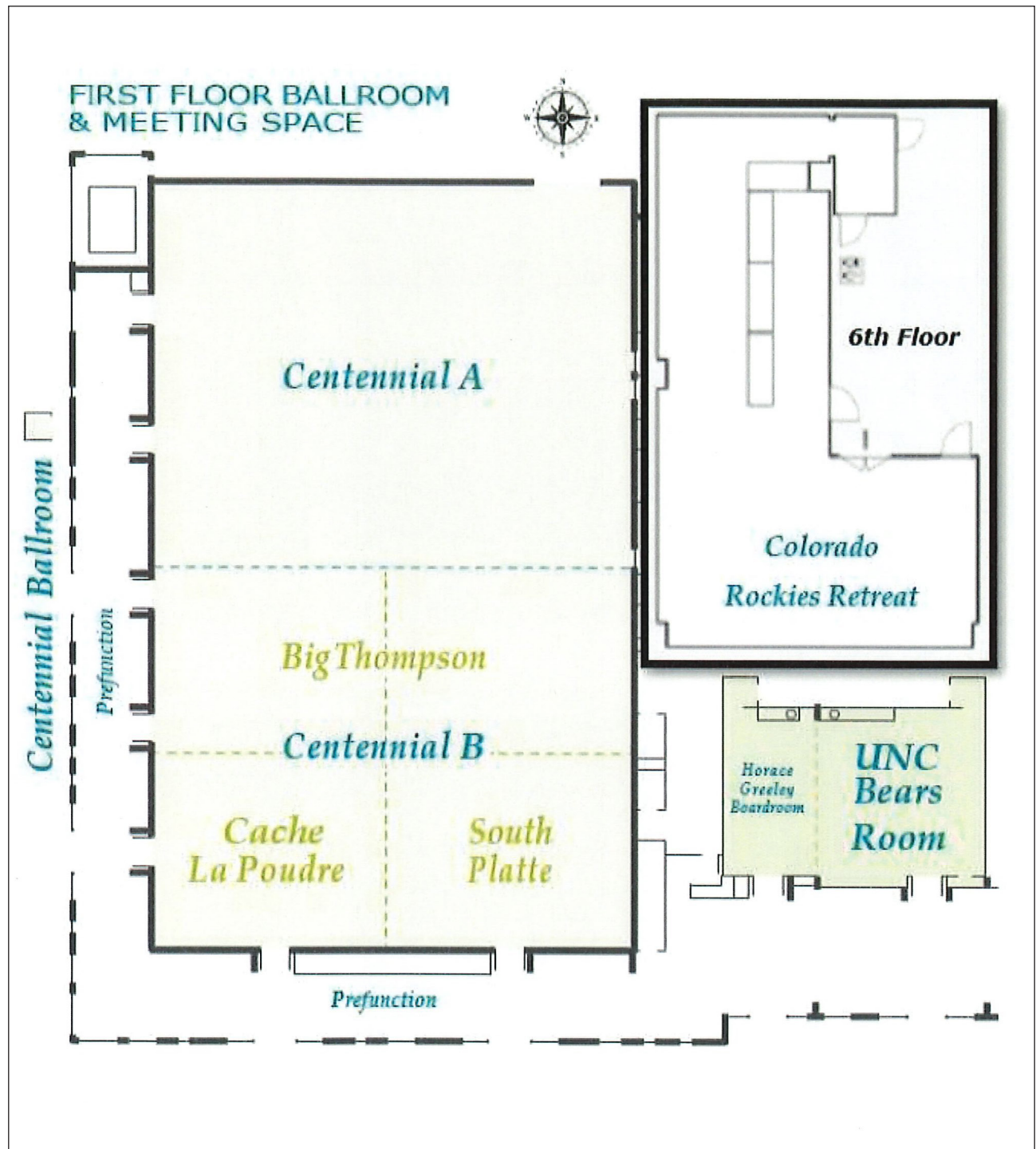
DIRECTIONS TO CENTENNIAL VILLAGE MUSEUM

(WELCOME NIGHT)



- Driving to Welcome Night at the Centennial Village Museum is strongly encouraged. Please consider carpooling with a friend or relative.
- Limited bus service will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Assemble for bus transportation at the North Side entrance of the hotel at 4:30pm.

FIRST FLOOR MEETING AREAS



53RD INTERNATIONAL AHSGR CONVENTION AGENDA

**Events with this symbol require previous registration*

Thursday, August 3

7:30 am - 4:30 pm	Registration	Prefunction Area
8 am - 12 pm	*Tour 1 - <i>"Neighborhood Memories and Greeley History"</i> *Tour 2 - <i>"Water in the West and Saving a Colorado Century Farm"</i>	Gather in Prefunction Area 15 minutes prior Gather in Prefunction Area 15 minutes prior
8:30 - 9:15 am	BOD and BOT meeting	Big Thompson
9-11 am	*Food Demonstration, <i>"Noodle Making"</i>	Greeley Active Adult Center
9 am - 12 pm	Bookstore, Silent Auction, Research Room Set-Up	UNC Bears, Horace Greeley Boardroom, Cache LaPoudre
9:30 - 11:15 am	Ancestral/Genealogical Research Committee Meeting	Big Thompson
9:30 - 11:45 am	*Beginning German from Russia Research Workshop	Centennial A
9:30 am - 4:30 pm	Trustee's meeting	Founder's Room
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Folklore Committee Meeting Small Publishing Group Meeting	Big Thompson South Platte
12:30 - 1:30 pm	*Boxed Lunch	Centennial A
1-3 pm	*Food Demonstration, <i>"Butterballs"</i>	Greeley Active Adult Center
1-4 pm	*Tour 3 - <i>"Rows and Rails"</i>	Gather in Prefunction Area 15 minutes prior
	Bookstore, Silent Auction, Research Room Open	UNC Bears, Horace Greeley Boardroom, Cache LaPoudre
1:30 - 4:30 pm	BOD/Strategic Planning Committee Meeting	Big Thompson
1:45 - 2:45 pm	Mike Meisinger, <i>First-time Attendees Orientation</i>	Centennial A
3-4 pm	Research Library Orientation	Centennial A
5-8 pm	Welcome Night - Centennial Village (supper included)	Offsite / See page 8

Friday, August 4

7:30 am - 5 pm	Registration	Prefunction Area
8-9:30 am	Opening Session Presiding: Sue Nakaji, Convention Chair Presentation of Colors Singing of National anthems Opening Prayer Welcome to the 52nd Annual AHSGR Convention / Welcome to Greeley Proclamation	Centennial A

Introduction of AHSGR Board of Directors:
Karen Soeken, President
Introduction of IFAHSGR Board of Trustees:
Peter Kaland, President
Introduction of the AHSGR Staff: Deb Arenz,
AHSGR Executive Director
Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Words to the Anthems

America the Beautiful

*Oh, beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.*

O Canada

*O Canada!
Our home and native land
True patriot love
In all of us command
With glowing hearts
We see thee rise
The True North, strong and free
From far and wide
O Canada
We stand on guard for thee
God keep our land
Glorious and free
O Canada we stand on guard for thee!
O Canada we stand on guard for thee!*

The Star Spangled Banner

*O! say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last
gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the
perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly
streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in
air
Gave proof through the night that our flag was
still there;*

*O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave?*

**Keynote speaker: Mark Sullivan - *Why I am
compelled to write Historical Fiction***

Find out his reasons when Mark joins us as the keynote speaker at the AHSGR Convention in Greeley, Colorado. His novel, *The Last Green Valley*, chronicles the Martels, Germans who have farmed in the Russian Empire (currently Ukraine) for more than a century. After living under Stalin's horrifying regime, should they run in retreat from the wolves they despise or search for freedom with the devils they don't know? Sullivan is the acclaimed author of eighteen novels, including the #1 New York Times bestselling Private series, which he writes with James Patterson.

9:45 - 10:45 am

Presentations

**Reinhard Nachtigal - *The Protestant Church
in Tsarist and Soviet Russia. A Survey on
Communities and Churches***

Catholicism in Russia, acquired mostly by the annexation of large parts of the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth under Catherine the Great, never enjoyed such a respect and such privileges as Protestantism. My presentation aims at the lower level of Protestantism in Russia, their efforts and activities. Attention will be given to social infrastructures and, not the least, to church architecture, the most visible agency of Protestantism (PPT).

Centennial A

**Tara Harris - *Telling Your Family Story
Through Ethnographic Art***

Tara Harris, a visual artist based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, explores history, gender, and cultural traditions. For more than two decades Tara has researched her Volga and Black Sea German ancestors and continues to draw inspiration from their lives. In 2023 she exhibited a collection of works inspired by Volga German traditions at Goddard College.

Big Thompson

**Ellen Laubhan - *The Historical Characters
Who Shaped Our Ancestors' Destiny***

Ellen Laubhan spent ten years researching the earliest German pioneers and writing "The Empress' Gift: The Volga Frontier," an historical novel released in 2022. Ms. Laubhan's ancestors included Laubhans and Ehrlichs who helped settle Shcherbakovka colony as early as 1765, and farmed and owned flour mills there until approximately 1914.

South Platte

Village Gathering Areas 10 & 14; 11 & 12

Bookstore, Silent Auction, Research Room Open

Colorado Rockies Room

UNC Bears, Horace Greeley
Boardroom, Cache LaPoudre

9:45 - 11:45 am

9:45 am - 5 pm

Vendors

Prefunction South

11 am - 12 pm	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Kara Hefner - <i>A Journey of their Lifetimes: Preserving the Zahl and Schissler Stories</i></p> <p>Experience inspirational stories of village life, migrations, homesteading, and perseverance of the Zahl and Schissler families from Kara Louise Hefner's new biography and cookbook about her great-grandparents.</p>	South Platte
	<p>Village Gathering Area 1</p> <p>Chapter Leaders Meeting</p>	Big Thompson
12-1:45 pm	<p>*Society & Foundation Business Meeting & Luncheon</p> <p>Presiding: Karen Soeken, AHSGR President</p> <p>Call to Order</p> <p>Appointments for meeting (Minutes Review, Parliamentary)</p> <p>Adoption of Standing Rules (page 26)</p> <p>President's Report</p> <p>Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting (page 28)</p> <p>Financial Report (printed separate)</p> <p>Executive Director's Report</p> <p>Standing Committee Reports (page 30 or ahsgr.org/convention [pdf access])</p> <p>New Business</p> <p>Proposed Bylawes amendments (page 31)</p> <p>Election of Board Members (page 30)</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Foundation Annual Meeting</p> <p><i>Presiding: Peter Kaland, IFAHSGR President</i></p> <p>Adjournment</p>	Colorado Rockies Room Centennial A
2-4 pm	Bookstore, Silent Auction, Research Room Open	UNC Bears, Horace Greeley Boardroom, Cache LaPoudre
2:15 - 3:15 pm	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Northern Colorado panel - <i>Eastside Germans from Russia</i></p> <p>A discussion on the historic preservation of the East Side neighborhood of Greeley where our Germans from Russia ancestors lived when they came to Colorado to work in the sugar beet industry. The panel will be moderated by Lauren Brethauer Brantner.</p> <p>Anna Bartkowski - <i>The Art of Storytelling: Inspiration and Guidance for Family Historians</i></p> <p>Everyone has a story to tell. Whether it is about your life, family, or ancestors, writing can be challenging to start and overwhelming to finish. In this session, you'll learn how to craft your story, and discover techniques to revise your draft to engage your audience and have them coming back for more.</p>	Centennial A Big Thompson

Ulrich Merten - *Why did your ancestors leave their homeland and go to Russia? Germany in the 18th Century*

I will examine the devastation caused by war, particularly in South-West Germany (the origin of most Germans from Russia) as well as the continuing expansion of the large estates at the expense of peasant land caused great poverty in rural Germany, making emigration almost mandatory in order to survive. In the case the Mennonites who lived in West Prussia, mandatory military service for the Prussian King was the paramount issue.

South Platte

Village Gathering Area 9

Colorado Rockies Room

Kuchen Break

Prefunction South

3:15 - 3:45 pm

3:45 - 4:45 pm

Presentations

Raymond Karlin - *The 1890 Census & The National Archives*

What happened to the U.S. Census of 1890? What historical events moved the U.S. Government to develop the National Archives? Is information from the Census really lost or can I find it somewhere else? These and many more questions will be answered.

Big Thompson

Wayne Garman - *The Story of the Holodomor 1932-1933: A Germans from Russia Perspective*

For the Germans who remained in Russia by the 1930s, collectivization forced them to give up their farms to the state. This became yet another horror of communist rule. Unfortunately, more misery was to come, as the manmade crop failure and resulting famine killed millions of people in 1932 & 1933, including many Germans. I will tell the story of this tragedy and how it affected our German ancestors left in Russia.

South Platte

Olga Litzenberger - *German Traces on the Volga*

An academic overview of large German settlements in the Volga region. This presentation will incorporate photos, stories, & legends to compliment the scientific report.

Centennial A

Village Coordinator's Meeting

Colorado Rockies Room

Dinner on Your Own

*BEETS play reading

Union Colony Civic Center

5 - 7 pm

7 - 9:30 pm

Saturday, August 5

7:30 am - 1 pm

Registration

Prefunction Area

8 am - 4 pm

Vendors

Prefunction South

8 - 9 am

Presentations

Karen Keehr - *Innovation with PastPerfect and Digitization Projects*

AHSGR Archives is entering an exciting new era of digitization. Find out how we scan the photographs and documents in the AHSGR Archives, what our priorities are, and what the future holds. Learn how to access the new digitized images through our new PastPerfect Online portal. Karen will also offer a few tips and tricks on how best to digitize your own family treasures.

Centennial A

Karen Schutte - *We're Leaving!*

Author will transport audience back in time via historical research and dialogue. PowerPoint of archival and personal family photos along with author's reading of select portions of great interest.

South Platte

Maggie Hein - *Migration to the Volga Colonies in 1772-1773: Who? How? Where from?*

If you are a Volga German descendant, you know that almost all of the colonies were settled between 1764 and 1767. But did you know that there were additional Volga settlers who arrived in Russia in 1772 and 1773? New information has been published about these later settlers, including details about their journey to Russia. This new information also provided hints about where in Germany these settlers came from. Maggie will discuss what drew her attention to this group and will demonstrate the process of documenting the exact German Origin locations of these settlers and related settlers in several Volga villages.

Big Thompson

Village Gathering Areas 5 & 6

Colorado Rockies Room

9 am - 12 pm

Silent Auction

Horace Greeley Boardroom

9 am - 3 pm

Bookstore, Research Room Open

UNC Bears, Cache LaPoudre

9:15 - 10:15 am

Presentations

Olga Litzenberger - *The Bavarian Cultural Center of the Russian Germans (Nuremberg) and its work to preserve the history and culture of Russian Germans in Germany*

Centennial A

Dr. Ronald Baesler - *Struck Down But Not Destroyed: The Story of Rudolf Heupel, a German Russian Immigrant*

Big Thompson

The story of Rudolph Heupel, based upon historical research, correspondence, interviews and personal experience. Born in South Russia, suffered the privations of World War I in Germany, arrived penniless in the US. For forty years he maintained a unique ministry as a rural pastor and healer for tens of thousands.

Russ Gunther - *First Voyage of the Scouts to America*

South Platte

Five delegate scouts were elected from the GR villages in 1874 to explore prospects for emigration to America! (Did you know they weren't even going to see the United States?!) Hear about their voyage, their invitation from a king, the route, where they ended up and what they brought back!

Village Gathering Areas 8; 7 & 13

Colorado Rockies Room

10:30 - 11:30 am

Presentations

CSU panel: Dr. Ken Rock, John Stencel, Mark Shelstad - *Sugar Beet Industry and the German Russians in Colorado*

Centennial A

Emphasis on the importance of the sugar beet industry, and the extremely important role played by Germans from Russia who became the laborers, and ultimately prosperous farmers in the irrigated valleys of Colorado. The State Agricultural University (later CSU), played an important role in crop development through its Experiment Station. The University Archives as a preservative repository for agricultural archives, including German Russian oral histories, and the Great Western Sugar Company.

Sharon Stahla - *Pay It Forward: Keeping the History Alive*

South Platte

How an interaction with a student introduced me to AHSGR and then led me to develop a presentation for third graders as they learned about their community. I include student interaction and other effects from my presentation.

Village Gathering Areas 3 & 4

Colorado Rockies Room

10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Youth Program

LINC Library

11:45 - 1 pm

*Greeley Roots Luncheon

Big Thompson

Greeley's "Roots of our Heritage Luncheon" honors our Society's origins in Greeley. Tables will be organized by Regional Village Groups so we can meet and greet others who share our village's ancestry.

12 pm

Silent Auction Closes

Horace Greeley Boardroom

12:30 - 3 pm

Pay and pick up Silent Auction items

Horace Greeley Boardroom

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Presentations

Reinhard Nachtigal - *German Views on Russia's War in Ukraine - a Snapshot of the Situation in Germany*

Centennial A

The declaration of a "turning point" (Zeitenwende) by German chancellor Olaf Scholz in spring 2022 ended a period of German "agreement" policy towards Russia. The global threat by illiberal and totalitarian regimes has sensitized German society and will, hopefully, foster the continued assistance to Ukraine, notwithstanding the bleak prospect of a long duration of the war. My paper tries to entangle various perspectives and attitudes within Germany.

2023 CONVENTION STAFF

Convention Management Committee

Sue Nakaji, Chair
Nancy Borrell
Sue Casseday
Cheryl Glanz
Kevin Rupp

Host Committee Chairperson

Lauren Brantner, President of
Northern Colorado Chapter of
AHSGR (NCC)

Host Committee/AHSGR

Convention Committee Liaison

Sue Casseday, AHSGR Board
Treasurer & Treasurer/Membership
Director for NCC

Host Committee

Northern Colorado Chapter of
AHSGR (NCC)

AHSGR Staff

Deb Arenz
Emily Gengenbach
Karen Keehr
Claire Landolt
Amber Mikkelsen
Jonathan Rowe
Jacob Summerville

Banquet & Dutch Hop

Cyndi Lesser Babish
Lauren Brantner
Barbara Bretz

Beets Play Presentation

Sue Schneider O'Grady
Peggy Stumpf

Cooking Demonstrations

Kathy Claus, Chair
Shirley Hart
Kathy Hettinger
Shirley Hirsch
Betty Weiderspon
Cheryl White

Finance & Fundraising

John Stencil, Chair
Nick Bretz
Becky Wunsch Hershey
Clarence Kissler

Heritage Hall

Barbara Bretz
Kevin Rupp

Hospitality

Kathy Claus, Chair
Linda Baldwin
Shirley Hart
Kathy Hettinger
Shirley Hirsch
Clarence Kissler
Donna Kissler
Joyce Wagner
Betty Weiderspon
Cheryl White

Opening Ceremony

Larry Frazier
Jerry Mc Farling
Dr. Ronald Wunsch

Photography

Cindy Haley

Quilt Auction

Sue Casseday, Chair
Tommi Sue Chapman
Deb Frazier
Cheryl White

Registration Volunteers

Deb Frazier, Chair
Charles Hettinger
Peggy Stumpf

Research Room Volunteers

Donette Brantner Artenie
Jonathan Brantner
Janet Deason
Deb Frazier
Dawnette Ham
Karen Johnson

Silent Auction

Candace Stone, Chair

Tours

Cheryl Glanz, Chair
Judy Firestein
Dawnette Ham
Gail Meisner

Transportation/Set-up/ Tear-Down

Larry Kimble, Chair
Donette Brantner Artenie
Jonathan Brantner
Dawnette Ham
Carla Hansell
Irv Kindsfather
Clarence Kissler
Barbara Stromberger
Joyce Wagner
Jim Welch (transportation of
AHSGR HQ materials to and from
Greeley)

Vendors

Larry Frazier

Volunteer Coordination

Larry Kimble, Chair
Larry Frazier

Welcome Night

John Stencil, Co-Chair
Lauren Brantner, Co-Chair
Becky Wunsch Hershey
Nancy Redshaw
Don Stumpf
Peggy Stumpf
Dr. Ronald Wunsch

Youth Program

Tommi Sue Chapman, Chair
Shirley Betz
Candace Stone

Not a complete list of volunteers, thanks to all who helped!

2023 CONVENTION DONORS

Northern Colorado Chapter of AHSGR
Jerome and Janice Siebert



Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the
2023 Convention in Greeley, Colorado. Vielen Dank!

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AREA 1A Medveditsa River Villages and Daughter Colonies

Mother Colonies

Frank
Hussenbach
Kolb
Walter

Daughter Colonies

Brunnental
Frank-Khutor/Neu-Frank
Hoffental
Klein-Walter
Neu-Hussenbach
Walter-Khutor/Neu-Walter

AREA 1B Protestant Colonies of Kantons Frank & Northern Kamenka

Mother Colonies

Dietel
Franzosen
Kautz
Kratzke
Merkel

Daughter Colonies

Aehrenfeld
Friedenberg
Friedenfeld
Gnadentau
Konstantinowka
Langenfeld
Neu-Aehrenfelde
Neu-Bauer
Neu-Donenhoff
Propp
Wiesenmueller

AREA 2 Protestant Colonies of Kantons Balzer & Northern Kamenka

Mother Colonies

Anton
Balzer
Bauer
Beideck
Doenhoff
Grimm
Huck
Kutter
Messer
Moor
Norka
Schilling

Daughter Colonies

Aehrenfeld
Alt-Schilling
Alt-Weimar
Eckheim
Erlenbach
Friedenberg
Friedenfeld
Gnadenfeld
Gnadentau
Hoffental
Konstantinowka
Langenfeld
Neu-Balzer
Neu-Bauer
Neu-Messer
Neu-Moor
Neu-Norka
Neu-Schilling I
Neu-Schilling II
New-Aehrenfelde
Oberdorf
Rosenfeld-am-Jerusan
Wiesenmueller

AREA 3 Catholic Colonies of Kantons Frank, Kamenka, Kukkus, & Seelmann

Mother Colonies

Brabander
Degott
Dehler

Franzosen
Goebel
Hildmann
Hoezel
Husaren
Kamenka
Keller
Koehler
Leichtling
Leitsinger
Neu-Kolonie
Pfeifer
Preuss
Rothammel
Schuck
Seewald
Semenovka
Vollmer

Daughter Colonies

Josephstal
Marienberg
Marienfeld
Streckerau

AREA 4 Protestant Colonies of Kanton Southern Kamenka

Mother Colonies

Dobrinka
Drespitz
Galka
Holstein
Kraft
Mueller
Shcherbakovka
Schwab
Stephan

Daughter Colonies

Alexandertal
Alt-Weimar
Blumenfeld
Dubowka
Eckheim
Erlenbach

Frankreich
Friedenberg
Fritzendorf
Gnadenthau
Kana
Langenfeld
Morgentau
Neu-Galka
Neu-Muehle
Neu-Norka
Neu-Weimar
Oberdorf
Strassburg
Unterdorf
Wiesenfeld
Wiesenmueller

AREA 5 Protestant Colonies of Kantons Krasnojarsk & Marxstadt

Mother Colonies

Basel
Beauregard
Beckerdorf
Bern
Bettinger
Biberstein
Boaro
Brockhausen
Caesarfeld
Enders
Fischer
Hockerburg
Kano
Katherinenstadt
Kind
Krasnojarsk
Naab
Nieder-Monjour
Orlowskoje
Paulskoje
Phillipsfeld
Reinhardt
Reinwald
Rosenheim
Schaefer

Schafthausen
Schulz
Schwed
Stahl-am-Karman
Susannental
Unterwalden
Zuerich

Daughter Colonies

Alexanderhoh
Lilienfeld
Neu-Boisroux
Rosental

AREA 6
Catholic Colonies of
Kantons Krasnojarsk,
Marxstadt
& Tonkoschoramka

Mother Colonies

Beauregardt
Chassoelouis
Graf
Herzog
Katharinenstadt
Louis
Luzern
Mariental
Ober-Monjour
Rohleder
Schoenchen
Urbach
Wittman
Zug

Daughter Colonies

Alexanderfeld
Birkenheim
Friedental
Liebental
Maidorf
Neu-Boaro
Neu-Urbach
Neu-Obermonjour

AREA 7
Mennonite Colonies

Colonies

Chortitza
Crimea
Friesenow
Kuban
Molotschna
Sagradovka

(Individual villages may be found on the area map or at the following internet site: <http://www.mennonitehistory.org/projects/geography/index.html>)

AREA 8
Volhynia Colonies
Polish & Ukraine

Colonies

Dermanke
Emilhin
Kruglik
Marianin
Polish
Volhynia
Volyunsk
Zaslav

AREA 9
Protestant Colonies
of Kantons Jagodaja
Poljana, Kukkus, &
Seelmann

Mother Colonies

Bangert
Dinkel
Jost
Kukkus
Laub
Lauwe
Neu-Warenberg
Pobotschnaja
Seelmann

Stahl-am-Tarlyk
Straub
Warenburg
Yagodnaya Poljana
Daughter Colonies
Brunntal
Konstantinowka
Neu-Beideck
Neu-Jagodnaja
Neu-Laub
Neu-Schoenfeld
Neu-Schoental
Neu-Straub
Neu-Warenburg
Schoendorf
Schoenfeld
Schoental
Strassendorf
Tscharndym

AREA 10
Caucasus Colonies

Colonies

Alexanderfeld
Duchlonoff
Eigenfeld
Eigenheim
Emaus
Friedrichsfeld
Johannesdorf
Karlsruhe
Katharinenfeld
Kronental
Lillienfeld
Luxemburg
Marienbrunn
Markosowka
Nalchik
Rosenfeld

AREA 11
Beresan & Odessa
Colonies

Beresan Colonies

Johannestal

Karlsruhe
Katherinental
Landau
Rohrbach
Speier
Sulz
Waterloo
Worms

Odessa Colonies

Alexanderhelf
Berezan
Franzfeld
Grossliebental
Josefstal
Kleinliebental
Mammje
Mariental
Neuburg
Odessa
Rastatt

AREA 12
Bessarabia, Kutschurgan
& Romania Colonies

Bessarabia Colonies

Akkerman
Alt-Posttal
Arzis
Beresina
Borodino
Brienne
Dennewitz
Engenheim
Friedenfeld
Friedenstal
Hoffnungstal
Katzbach
Krasna
Kulm
Leipzig
Lichtental
Neu-Arzis
Neu-Sarata
Sarata
Tarutino
Teplitz

Kutschurgan Colonies

Elsass
Kandel
Mannheim
Selz

Romania Colonies

Atmagea
Bukovina
Cataloi
Ciucurova
Dobruja
Gurahumora
Tschukurow

AREA 13**Crimea, Prischib & Swedish Colonies**Crimea Colonies

Friedental
Heilbronn
Karassan
Kronental
Neu-Hoffnung
Neusatz
Rosental
Schoenbrunn
Spat
Sudak
Zuerichtal

Prischib Colonies

Alt-Montal
Alt-Nassau
Durlach
Friedrichsfeld
Hochheim

Hochstaedt

Hoffental
Karlsruhe
Kronsfield
Neu-Montal
Neu-Nassau
Reichenfeld
Rosental
Tiefenbrunn
Wasserau

Swedish Colonies

Alt-Schwedendorf
Klosterdorf
Muehlhausendorf
Schlangendorf

AREA 14**Glueckstal & Hoffnungstal Colonies**Mother Colonies

Bergdorf
Gluckstal
Hoffnungsfeld
Hoffnungstal
Kassel
Neudorf

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Comparison by Category	30-Jun-23	30-Jun-22	6-Jun-21	20-Jun-19
Life Members	1,056	1,077	1,151	1,114
Sustaining Members	173	217	n/a	212
Standard Members	1,145	1,095	1,450*	1,238
Youth & Student Members	21	18	21	42
Organizational Members **	19	58	22	43
TOTAL	2,431	2,465	2,644	2,649
New Members	211	382	404	406

*Includes Sustaining Members

**Includes Exchange Members

STANDING RULES OF ORDER

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA 2023 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 Committee. 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 2023 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:

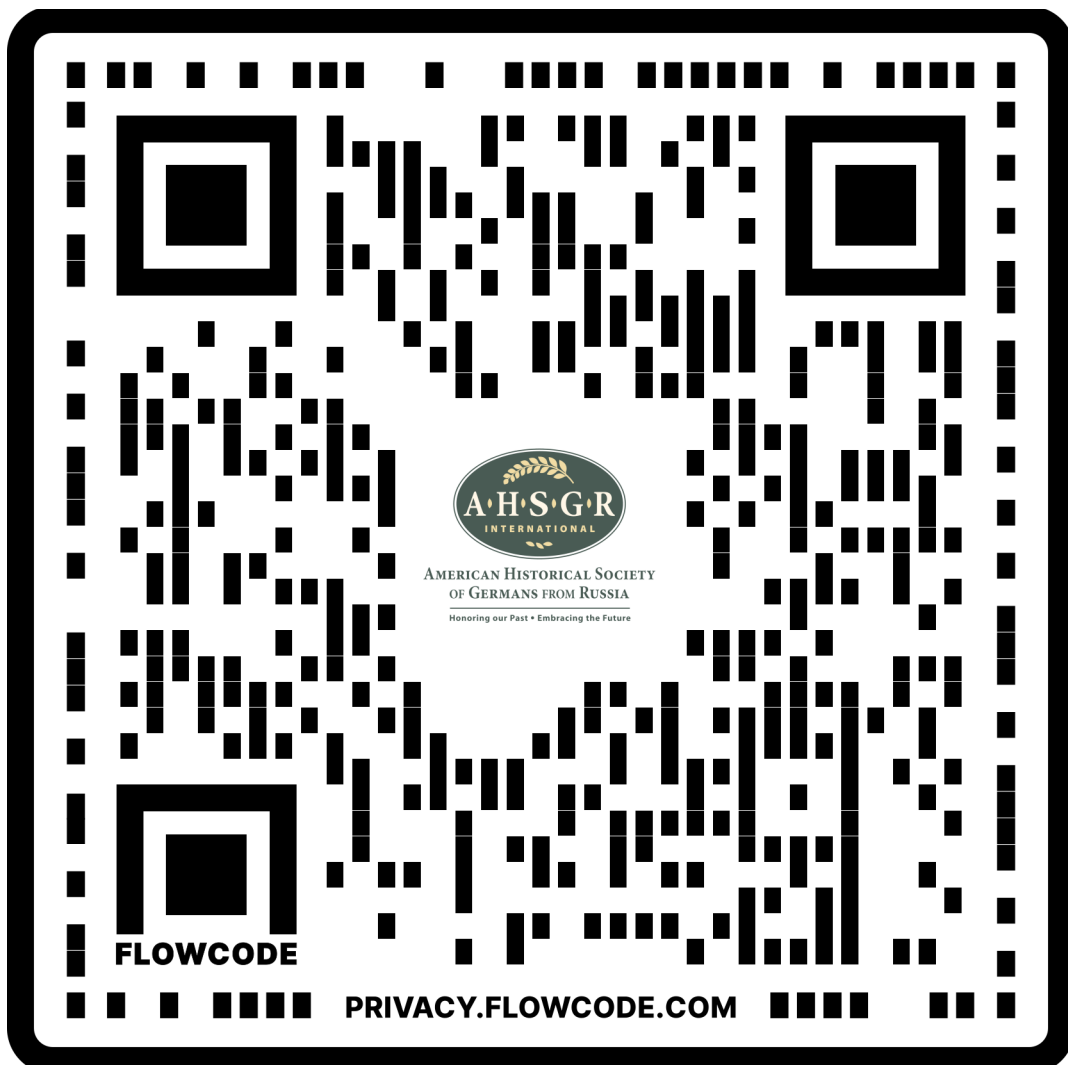
The following rules adopted by the Board of Directors shall prevail during convention general and business sessions.

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.

*Scan the QR code below to access
all committee reports.*



American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
AHSGR General Business Meeting Minutes
28 July 2022

Karen Soeken, Board President, called the meeting to order at 8:52 am.

Motion to adopt the meeting agenda as printed carried. [Sue Nakaji, Kevin Rupp] Motion carried.

Karen Soeken appointed the following individuals to serve for the annual meeting:

Parliamentarian: Peter Kaland

Timekeeper: Harold Penner

Minutes Review: Marlene Michel

Election Committee: Non- Board Members—Ron Brott (Chair), Tommie Sue Chapman, Mike Meisinger; Board Members —LaDonna Hunt, Bill Doos

Standing rules were adopted unanimously by the Membership.

Motion to accept the Minutes from the 2021 Annual Board Meeting carried.

Auditor's Report: If there are questions, talk with Sue Cassadey and/or Deb Arenz

Old Business: None

Quorum: After searching the halls for members, the required number (100) for quorum was achieved.

Bylaws Amendments

The secretary (Sheri Ertl) read the bylaws and the president (Karen Soeken) explained the changes to the quorum. She answered questions from the Membership.

Article VI: Board of Directors

Section F: The at-large District shall have three (3) representative, ~~no more than one (1) representative shall be from any one of the representation Districts.~~ *Removing the limitations will make it easier to fill positions on the Board of Directors.*

Membership voted in the affirmative.

Article VI: Board of Directors

~~Except herein provided, no person shall be appointed or elected to the AHSGR Board of Directors, who at any time within the past year, shall have served on the Board of Directors of AHSGR.~~ No member shall serve simultaneously as a member of the Board of Directors of AHSGR and the Board of Trustees of the AHSGR Foundation. *The first sentence is unnecessary, as term limits were removed in 2008.*

Membership voted in the affirmative.

Article VI: Board of Directors

Add Section P: Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed with or without cause as follows:

1. A director elected by the Membership may be removed by the Membership only at a meeting called for the purpose of removing that director. The meeting notice shall state that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is removal of the director. The director may be removed only if the number of votes cast to remove the director would be sufficient to elect the director at a meeting to elect directors.

2. A director elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the vote of a majority of the directors then in office.
3. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for submitting a recommendation to the Membership or to the Board of Directors with respect to the removal of a director under the provisions of this Section P. The Executive Committee shall assemble such information as it deems necessary to substantiate its recommendation and provide sufficient notice to the director subject to removal and to the Membership or the Board of Directors in advance of the meeting that will consider the director's removal. At least one (1) member of the Executive Committee shall be present at the meeting to conduct the meeting and to respond to questions by those in attendance.
4. Upon receipt of the meeting notice, the director subject to removal shall be on leave of absence status with respect to the director's position on the Board of Directors until conclusion of the vote by the Membership or the Board of Directors.

This addition complies with the Colorado Revised Statutes for Nonprofit Corporations, Section 7-128-108 — Removal of Directors.

Membership voted in the affirmative.

Article XII: Elections

Section D: Nominations from the Floor

3. If there is no nomination from the floor for an opening in a Representation District of a member from that District, out-of-District nominations will be accepted for the open position.

Adding #3 to Section D allows for a minimum number of board members with temporary one-year appointments.

Membership voted in the affirmative.

Nominations

District 5: Oregon

There were two floor nominations: Rozalynd Rockweit and Bernadine Lee. A paper vote was taken among the Membership. Rozalynd Rockweit won the vote 57-32. (One vote was invalid, as it contained both names.)

District 10: Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio

No floor nominations. Mike Heil nominated Russ Gunther.

District 11: Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri

No nominations from the floor. Mike Heil nominated Duane Stabler.

Floor Discussion

Questions from the floor: Several members asked how we can avoid the situation we had when we couldn't make quorum right away. One person suggested we also put the Business Meeting on Zoom.

Ron Brott proposed amending the Articles of Incorporation to take away the 100-person quorum requirement.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02

*Minutes were approved by Marlene Michel, appointed as Minutes Review.
Sheri Rohn Ertl, Secretary*

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (International)

Below is the Board of Directors nomination and election information. Listed are the names of the proposed 2023 board members. This includes both board members that will continue an ongoing term as well as proposed new board members to fill open seats. Board members are displayed by district and notes their term and number of terms served. See the AHSGR bylaws for more nomination and election information (Article XII: Elections). Where terms begin in 2023 (), the candidates listed are running unopposed and therefore will begin their new terms at the 2023 AHSGR summer member meeting. 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 2023 AHSGR summer member meeting. As stated in the bylaws, AHSGR will NOT mail ballots for Board of Directors seats that are uncontested.*

District 1: California and Hawaii (4 seats)

Lee Macklin	First Term	2021-2024
Sue Nakaji	Fourth Term	2023-2026*
Dodie Rotherham	Fifth Term	2022-2025
Jerry Siebert	Ninth Term	2023-2026*

District 2: Washington and Alaska (2 seats)

Sally Petersen	First Term	2023-2026*
John Spady	First Term	2022-2024

District 3: Nebraska (2 seats)

Heath Dumler	First Term	2022-2025
Rebecca Matticks	First Term	2023-2026*

District 4: Colorado (4 seats)

Sue Casseday	Third Term	2021-2024
Cheryl Glanz	Third Term	2022-2025
Delores Tippet	Third Term	2023-2026*
Sandra Wagner	First Term	2023-2025#

District 5: Oregon (1 seat)

Rosalind Rockweit	Second Term	2023-2026*
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District 6: Kansas (2 seats)

Bob Ahlbrandt	Second Term	2021-2024
Kevin Rupp	Sixth Term	2021-2024

District 7: Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah (3 seats)

Anna Bartkowski	Second Term	2022-2025
Russ Gunther	Third Term	2023-2024#
Harold Penner	Fourth Term	2023-2026*

District 8: Illinois and Wisconsin (1 seat)

Bill Doos	Fourth Term	2021-2024
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District 9: Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming (1 seat)

Michael Brown	Second Term	2022-2025
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District 10: Indiana, Michigan and Ohio (1 Seat)

Jeff Stoll	First Term	2023-2026*
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District 11: Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri (2 seats)

Sheri Ertl	Second Term	2023-2026*
Duane Stabler	Second Term	2022-2025

District 12: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington D.C. (2 seats)

Diane Bates	First Term	2023-2026*
Philip Stuckert	First Term	2021-2024

District 13: Canada and Other Countries (2 seats)

Timothy Geiger	First Term	2023-2025#
Olga Litzenberger	First Term	2023-2024#

District 14: At Large (3 seats)

Gary Fuchs	Second Term	2021-2024
Kristine Jones	First Term	2022-2025
Elizabeth Koch	First Term	2022-2025

PROPOSED BYLAW REVISIONS

2023 Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors recommends that the following revisions to the AHSGR Bylaws be considered at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Note: Deletions are indicated with a ~~strike through~~; additions are indicated with *italics*.

PROPOSED CHANGE	RATIONALE
Article III. Section C. Dues become delinquent 30 days after due date and a service charge to cover additional expenses may be assessed for renewals thereafter.	Section C is left over from when dues were on a calendar year. Currently, membership expires one year after a member joins and there is no delinquency period.
Article VI. Section G. The Board of Directors may fill vacancies on the Board of Directors for the unexpired terms resulting from resignations when these vacancies occur at least ninety (90) days prior to the ballot process before the annual membership meeting. Serving an unexpired term of more than two (2) years shall constitute a full term for Section B.	The last sentence is left over from when there were term limits for Board of Directors members.
Article VIII. Section D. The Executive Committee shall report its action for ratification to the Board of Directors <i>actions taken on behalf of the Board of Directors</i> at the next Board's next meeting.	Actions would have been taken by the EC, so ratification is not necessary. However, actions still need to be reported to the Board and recorded in the minutes.
Article VIII. Section F. <i>The Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Directors, shall be responsible for the recruitment, negotiation of salary, and hiring of the Executive Director.</i>	The current bylaws indicated that the Executive Director is appointed by the Board of Directors that also sets set salary through the budgeting process (Article X. Section A). The proposed addition explicitly gives the responsibility for recruitment and hiring to the Executive Committee.
Article X. Section F. The Board of Directors shall review the job description and salary of the Executive Director annually. Article VIII. Section G. The Executive Committee shall review the job description and salary of the Executive Director annually.	The Executive Committee will recommend a salary to the Finance Committee as it prepares the proposed budget; the Board of Directors gives final approval through the budget process.
Article XII: Elections. Section C.1 Consist of five (5) members appointed by the President within sixty (60) days after the adjournment of the annual membership meeting. Not more than two (2) members shall be from any one Representation District and three (3) shall be non-board members.	The elections committee can be appointed as needed. As specified now, those appointed within sixty (60) days after an annual meeting may not be present at the subsequent annual meeting or available to an election prior to the subsequent annual meeting.

CONVENTION SPEAKERS



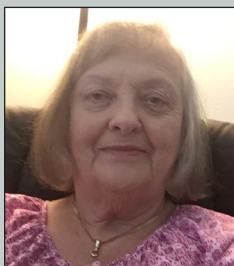
Ronald Baesler

Dr. Ron Baesler, a native of New Leipzig, North Dakota is a retired pastor, missionary and seminary professor. He has served and lived in Fargo, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Madagascar and California. He is the author of five books. He is married, father of four, and grandfather of six.



**Anna Dalhaimer
Bartkowski**

Anna Dalhaimer Bartkowski has traced her ancestral lines to her original settlers in Russia and their Germanic roots. She has uncovered many family stories along the way which she has transformed into five books to celebrate her heritage.



Lauren Brantner

Lauren Brethauer Brantner was raised on a sugar beet farm in Wiggins, Colorado. She earned an academic scholarship to the University of Northern Colorado and graduated in 1967. While her children were small, she worked for about eight years in several school districts as a substitute teacher, and later she helped support a family business. She then worked in higher education for 25 years at both UNC in the Monfort College of Business and at Colorado State University in the Lory Student Center. She served on a statewide Colorado Association of Public Employees Women's Task Force and a term on the Board of Education for her local school district. Lauren enjoyed working on the Bicentennial Commission for her community doing historical research in 1976. Throughout her life, Lauren has followed the roots of her heritage. She grew up studying and teaching accordion in Adolph Lesser's Studio in Greeley, Colorado. Playing polka music helped fund her education. She has participated in both oral history interviews with Georgia Wier, Folklorist for the City of Greeley, as well as the Public Television production Dutch Hop. Lauren has served as a Northern Colorado Chapter officer for over 25 years and has also been a member of the International Board. She has spent many years doing genealogy research for both her and her husband's family lines. She enjoys enriching the genealogy with the history that surrounds the people in the charts.



Robert Brunswig

Bob Brunswig (Ph.D.-University of Colorado) is Professor Emeritus and University Research Fellow at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). His four decades as a professional archaeologist includes field research in Pakistan, the Arabian Gulf, Colorado plains and mountains, France, and Poland. He served as a Fulbright Scholar at Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland), was a European Union Wzorst Fellow at Nicolaus Copernicus University (Torun, Poland), and is a UNC Distinguished Scholar. He now directs site preservation and field archaeology programs at the African American historic townsite of Dearfield in southeastern Weld County.



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 interested me. Upon semi-retirement, I completed a Masters of History degree from Texas State University. Historical research and writing is my retirement career.



Russ Gunther

Russ is a Brand Ambassador volunteer and Volga German sub-project coordinator of WikiTree's growing Germans from Russia project covering all Germans from Russia populations and colony villages. Russ studied Business and minored in German at Iowa State University, including a summer study abroad in Bregenz, Austria. Join Russ to explore one of the most exciting free resources for family connections and research that he used to root his family tree back to the 1600's!



Tara Harris

Tara Harris, a visual artist based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, explores history, gender, and cultural traditions. For more than two decades Tara has researched her Volga and Black Sea German ancestors and continues to draw inspiration from their lives. In 2023 she exhibited a collection of works inspired by Volga German traditions at Goddard College.



**Kara Louise
Hefner**

Kara Louise Hefner is the great-granddaughter of Germans from Russia decedents and is the author of their biography "From the Steppes to the Prairie: The Germans from Russia migrations told by the Zahl and Schissler family" and "Gumma's Recipe Book." Kara enjoys preserving family history and making berock and kuchen.



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.



**Nancy Lee
Hendricks**

Nancy Lee Hendricks joined AHSGR when she discovered her grandmother-in-law and her own step-mother were ethnic Germans from Russia. Working as a human rights officer in Tajikistan, she met ethnic Germans living in the former Soviet Union and began researching her father-in-law's ancestry.



Kris Jones

Kristine Jones currently consults as a Dissertation Coach after a career in Higher Education. She conducted research in Argentina, Chile, and at The Newberry Library Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies for her doctorate in Latin American and Native American History. She taught at several universities, most recently at The University of Chicago as Associate Director of the Center for Latin American History



Raymond Karlin

Raymond F. Karlin holds a BA degree in History with a minor in Classical Political Science, and a graduate degree in Education. He is a retired educator, writer, and genealogist with over forty years of experience. Mr. Karlin has given many history and genealogy workshops on an array of topics.



Karen Keehr

I have been in the Archives field for over 22 years and have specialized training in digital imaging and photograph preservation. I love what I do and am always happy to answer questions. Originally from Minnesota, I developed a taste for green chili while doing my graduate work at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. When I am not at work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and stepson.



Clarence Kissler

Clarence was born in Greeley, Colorado on June 26, 1935. He attended the Greeley schools and the University of Northern Colorado, earning a B.A. degree in Business Education and a Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration. He is married to Donna Lee (Davidson) Kissler. They have three sons, Gregory, David, and Thomas and five grandchildren. Upon graduation, he was employed by Los Lomas High School in Walnut, Creek, California. After three years, he accepted a teaching position at Torrejon Air Force High School in Madrid, Spain from 1960- 1965. Upon return, he accepted a number of educational positions, including the Director of Personnel, St. Vrain Valley School District in Longmont, Colorado. Later, he decided to make a career change and accepted a position with Uniroyal, Inc. as the Personnel Development Supervisor at the corporate headquarters in New York City. He also became a Kepner Tregoe, LLC, Uniroyal corporate management instructor, teaching seminars throughout the United States and Canada. From 1993, retiring on July 1, 2000, he was the Finance Director for the City of Commerce City, Colorado, and earned a number of national awards for outstanding financial accounting.



Ellen Laubhan

Ellen Laubhan spent ten years researching the earliest German pioneers and writing "The Empress' Gift: The Volga Frontier," an historical novel released in 2022. Ms. Laubhan's ancestors included Laubhans and Ehrlichs who helped settle Shcherbakovka colony as early as 1765, and farmed and owned flour mills there until approximately 1914.



**Olga
Litzenberger**

Prof. Dr. Olga Litzenberger was born in the city called Saratov (Russia) into a Russian-German house-hold. She studied history at the Saratov State University, law at the Volga Academy of Public Administration and philosophy at the University of Cologne. She received her doctorate with a thesis on "The Evangelical Lutheran Church and Soviet Power" and her habilitation on "The Roman Catholic and Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Russia: a Comparative Analysis of



Ulrich Merten

Interrelations with State and Society" (18th to early 20th century)". Olga Litzenberger worked for several years as a university lecturer, professor and prorector in Saratov. In 2017 she moved to Germany. She is married and has three children. Since May 2019, she has been employed as a research assistant at the Bavarian Cultural Center of Germans from Russia. Olga Litzenberger has written about 300 scientific publications (including 15 monographs, articles in encyclopedias, scientific articles), published in Russia as well as in Germany, the USA, Italy, Finland and other countries.

*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. 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 AHSGR 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, FL.*



Reinhard Nachtigal

Reinhard Nachtigal was born in Freiburg, Germany and studied history, English and Slavic philology at the universities of Münster in Westfalia, Edinburgh in Scotland, and Freiburg im Breisgau. He wrote his doctoral thesis on Central Powers' POWs in World War I Russia and published a book on the construction of the Murmansk Railway in Northern Russia with the help of POW forced labor. He is the author of a study on the Russian Germans in the Don Cossack area and on the creation of communications in the 19th century Caucasus. He is a research fellow of the Collaborative Research Center 948 "Heroes - Heroizations - Heroisms" at Frieburg University, where he researches heroization processes of Russian historical personalities (field-marshal Alexander Suvorov and cossack rebel Pugachev) in Russia. The history of Germans in European Russia has become an integral part of his historical interest.



Kenneth W. Rock

Kenneth Rock is emeritus professor of History at Colorado State University. He is a native of Abilene, Kansas. He has a BA degree from the University of Kansas, and an MA and PhD from Stanford University. Dr. Rock's teaching and research at CSU focused on Central and Eastern Europe, European biography and the Germans from Russia Immigration experience. His articles and essays have been published in the Austrian History Yearbook, the Colorado Magazine, in the book, Germans from Russia in Colorado, and in the AHSGR Journal. Ken is a co-founder and oral historian for the Germans from Russia in Colorado Study project at CSU in the 1970's. From 2006-2017, Ken was an associate at the Center for German Russian Studies at CSU.



Karen Schutte

I am a second-generation Volga German - my grandmother was born in Russia. I was born in Wyoming; I graduated with a B.A. from the University of Wyoming in interior design and practiced in the field for 25 years. I began writing historical fiction 20 years ago and have written 6 books, all based on German heritage. I'm a mother of four sons, grandmother of 10 grandchildren, and have great-grandchildren twins.



Sharon Stahla

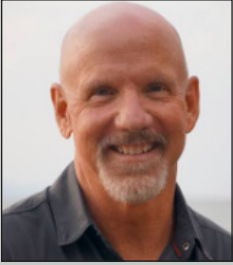
I am a granddaughter of Germans from Russia. I am a charter member of AHSGR. I have a Bachelors Degree from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master's Degree from the University of Colorado-Denver. After 31 years of teaching at Platte Valley Elementary School in Kersey, Colorado, I retired. I currently write poetry, work on scrapbooks, and enjoy the great-grandchildren.



John Stencil

John grew up on the family farm east of Greeley, being very active in his church, St John's E&R Lutheran Church, the 4-H and FFA. He is a graduate of Colorado State University, a Vietnam veteran and past President of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. After serving 23 years as RMFU President, he was appointed Deputy Administrator of the Farm Service Agency at the US Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Stencil retired in 2007 after 42 years of service to family farmers and ranchers. Stencil served on many boards during his working career. One of the most cherished was the State Board of Agriculture, the governing body for CSU, USC and Fort Lewis College. One of his many accomplishments while on the Board of Agriculture was the creation of the First Generation Scholarship Award program, the first in the nation. Following his two trips to many

GR villages on both sides of the Volga River, he worked with the CSU administration to create the International Program for German Russian Studies at CSU, a joint venture between CSU and Saratov State University. Stencel also served one term on the International Foundation board of AHSGR, two years as its Treasurer. John and his lovely wife, Marian reside in Brighton and have been married almost 60 years. They have two children, Matt and Amy, spouses Denise and Kevin and five grandchildren.



Mark Sullivan

Mark Sullivan is the acclaimed author of eighteen novels, including the #1 New York Times bestselling Private series, which he writes with James Patterson. Mark's bestselling novel, *The Last Green Valley*, chronicles the Martels, one of many families of German heritage whose ancestors have farmed in Ukraine for more than a century. But after already living under Stalin's horrifying regime, the family decides they must run in retreat from their land with the wolves they despise to escape the Soviets and go in search of freedom. Another bestselling novel, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*, is based on the true story of a forgotten hero, Pino Lella. It's the triumphant, epic tale of this young man's incredible courage and resilience during one of history's darkest hours during World War II in Italy. Mark has received numerous awards for his writing, including the WHSmith Fresh Talent Award, and his works have been named a New York Times Notable Book and a Los Angeles Times Best Book of the Year. He grew up in Medfield, Massachusetts, and graduated from Hamilton College with a BA in English before working as a volunteer in the Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa. Upon his return to the United States, he earned a graduate degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University

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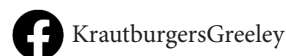
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*In Memory of the Brethauer and Kister
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Left to Right in back row:

John Kister and wife Eva, Mary Catherine

Kister and husband John Brethauer

*Front row: John Kister, Jacob
Brethauer and John Brethauer*

From Descendants:

Lauren Brethauer Brantner

Jeanette Brethauer Anderson

Laurel Miner Brown

Darlene Brethauer Dinnel Monroe

Sheryl Brethauer Schroth

Donette Brantner-Artenie



Larry L. Bohlender

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